THE TIMES

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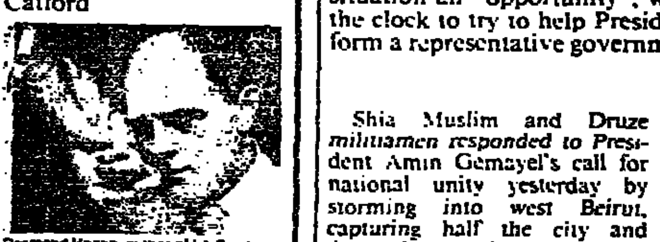
THE TIMES

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John Hennessy and David Miller report from Sarajevo on the start of the Winter Olympics

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Jock Bruce-Gardyne on Japanese cars and regional aid

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Spectrum walks A Curious Street – from Iowa City all the way to Catford

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George Walden advocates a quieter approach to Moscow

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Wednesday Page on the plight of Britain's 900,000 unemployed women

Housing benefit cut reduced

The Government appeared to have headed off a large-scale backbench revolt by reducing its planned cut in housing benefit in April. After pressure from MP's, local authorities and the Government's Social Services Advisory Committee the original £230m cut will be reduced by £30m to £40m Page 2

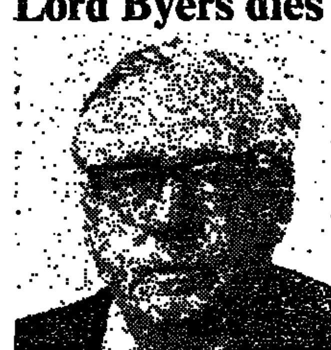
French blockade

French farmers, angered by falling meat prices, occupied Channel ports to blockade British lorries carrying beef or lamb Page 9

Suspects taped

A two-year trial in the use of tape recorders to monitor the interrogation of suspects has begun at two London police stations Page 3

Lord Byers dies

Lord Byers, Liberal leader in the Lords, who died yesterday after a heart attack. He was 68 and had been one of the Liberals' chief election strategists Obituary, page 16

Kohl in trouble

Chancellor Kohl's political future is in doubt after the failure of his Israel visit and the aftermath of the Kiessling scandal Page 8

Prices rise

Manufacturing prices rose by 0.6 per cent last month and, according to official figures yesterday, spending in shops for December reached a record Page 21

Computer Horizons

Computers and telecommunications have become so interdependent that a new science has emerged: information technology.

Computer Horizons responds to the need for the consumer, industrialist and financier to be kept informed of every development. Cable, satellite, computers, telecommunications, microelectronics, television, robots and video are all monitored by the expanding *Computer Horizons* – today on pages 19 and 20.

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Muslims and Druze combine to capture half Beirut

● Lebanon lurched closer to civil war yesterday as Muslim and Druze militiamen, covered by an intense barrage, captured the western half of Beirut

● The Reagan administration, calling the situation an "opportunity", worked round the clock to try to help President Gemayel form a representative government

● In London, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told MPs that Britain had no intention of withdrawing its contingent "precipitately"

● Israel has made it clear that it has no intention of becoming further embroiled in the Lebanon debacle, regardless of what might happen

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Shia Muslim and Druze militiamen responded to President Amin Gemayel's call for national unity yesterday by storming into west Beirut, capturing half the city and demanding Mr Gemayel's resignation in return for an end to Lebanon's latest civil war.

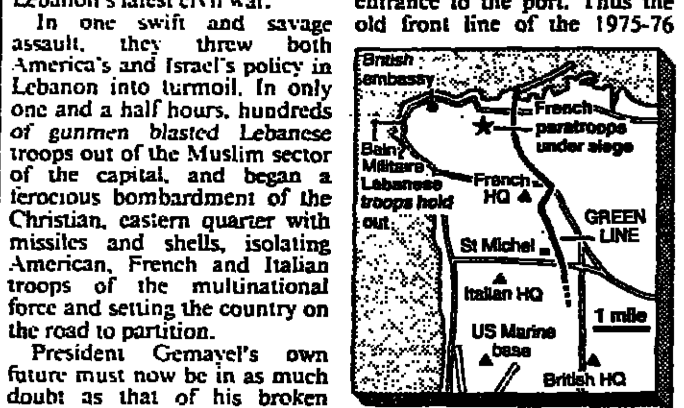
In one swift and savage assault, they threw both America's and Israel's policy in Lebanon into turmoil. In only one and a half hours, hundreds of gunmen blasted Lebanese troops out of the Muslim sector of the capital, and began a ferocious bombardment of the Christian, eastern quarter with missiles and shells, isolating American, French and Italian troops of the multinational force and setting the country on the road to partition.

President Gemayel's own future must now be in as much doubt as that of his broken country. Unless he can hold his Government army together or persuade President Reagan to give substantial military support to his soldiers, it is difficult to see how he can survive. It was Mr Reagan who said in his state of the Union message last month that America was "making progress" in Lebanon, but the chaos of Beirut yesterday has turned his statement into a mockery.

Many Lebanese soldiers simply downed their weapons and fled when the gunmen came onto the streets. Others decamped into apartment blocks to change into civilian clothes. A few bravely stayed on to defend their surrounded sandbagged emplacements and were overwhelmed with a murderous barrage of rockets and shells.

As the Muslim militias brought their Grad missile launchers into the west of the city last night, huge explosions could be heard coming from the Christian east of the city, while sniper fire cracked around the deserted streets.

In fighting along the seafront, several shells burst into blocks of flats, hurling their inhabitants in pieces into the street while hooded gunmen, firing rocket launchers, stormed army positions near the ruins of Spinney's Supermarket. Militiamen were meanwhile setting up mortars around the southern entrance to the port. Thus the old front line of the 1975-76 civil war was recreated. The museum, the port, Galerie Semaan – all the traditional crossing points between east and west Beirut – are now again controlled by gunmen.



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An isolated party of US Marines remained on duty outside the British Embassy on the seafront Corniche throughout the day, guarding a strip of territory scarcely a hundred yards deep in which many American embassy personnel live and work. By evening, according to eye-witnesses, two of the Marines had been wounded by snipers – one in the head – and Shia Muslim militiamen had set up mortars in a basketball court up a small road from the American troops. They did not open fire.

In the centre of west Beirut, French paratroopers of the multinational force stayed behind their massive earth fortifications as tremendous explosions from heavy artillery burst above them. The small British contingent out at Hadeth found itself under shellfire for much of the day. But, according to multinational force spokesmen, not one soldier in the international army fired a shot in defence of Mr Gemayel's regime.

From Mr Gemayel's palace at Baabda came only silence, save for a statement by his security adviser who told correspondents that he was trying to find opposition politicians to serve in a new coalition government.

"It is the moment of truth," he said solemnly. Mr Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shia Muslim "Amal" militia, however, was in no mood for such entreaties. Only Mr Gemayel's resignation would now end the fighting, he declared.

What must have been evident to Mr Gemayel during the day was the coordinated nature of the assault on west Beirut. Only a day after Mr Berri had called on Shia Muslim soldiers not to fight, the militias cooperated – Shia and Druze together, the latter with banners portraying the symbol of Walid Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party – in many of the attacks on the army.

Druze artillery in the Syrian-occupied hills of the Metn opened fire into the east of the capital at the same time. The Government in Beirut – or what is left of the Government now that the Muslim ministers have resigned – believe that Syria has orchestrated the battles. The militia say this is untrue. But the Americans are sure to detect the hand of Damascus in the anarchy that broke out yesterday.

On Sunday night, Mr Gemayel had offered opposition leaders a place in a new Cabinet and suggested that the unofficial peace treaty with Israel might be terminated. But his concessions came too late.

Moving freely through the streets, militiamen fire at Government positions

British troops to remain despite deepening crisis

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told MPs yesterday that the Government had no intention of withdrawing the British contingent from Lebanon.

He said in reply to an emergency Commons question from Mr Tony Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton, that collective consultation with multinational force partners would keep the situation under close review.

But he added: "We do not intend to withdraw our contingent precipitately." Whitehall sources said that no significance should be read into the word "precipitately". It was said that Britain was nowhere near a pull-out.

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow spokesman, urged Mr Luce to force the pace of an American withdrawal. The Minister replied that the Government did not underestimate the gravity of the problems.

The Minister wanted to assure Mr Healey that the force partners were weighing up the implications of what was happening very carefully, and he volunteered that it was a very difficult balance to strike. But the judgment would have to rest on the prospects for reconciliation, full sovereignty and stability.

Replying to a Conservative backbench critic, Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, who asked why the British troops were being exposed to continuing danger, the Minister said that it would not be right to take a rapid and panic decision.

"We have to judge calmly and rationally whether or not we can continue to make a constructive contribution", he said.

It was reported last night that there had been no direct contact between the Prime Minister and the President after the Beirut Cabinet resignation:

● **WASHINGTON:** The Reagan Administration, beleagured in Congress over its Beirut entanglement and desperate to save the Gemayel government from collapse, described the new crisis in Lebanon yesterday as an "opportunity", (Christopher Thomas writes).

Senior American officials are working around the clock in tandem with diplomats in the Middle East to help President Gemayel form a new Government. The Administration is strongly urging him to include, for the first time, key representatives from opposition Lebanese factions.

The White House said: "We hope he will quickly be able to form a responsible, broadly representative government

Syria blamed

President Reagan blamed Syria for encouraging the new outbreak of fighting and called on the Damascus Government to end the violence. He also said the US commitment to Lebanon remained unwavering.

Vauxhall tops BL on new car sales table

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

Vauxhall continued its seemingly inexorable rise through the ranks of the British new car market in January overtaking BL for the first time in the monthly sales figures.

With 18.68 pr cent of the domestic market, Vauxhall demonstrated that its Cavalier model, launched in the summer of 1981 and others like the Astra, are an unstoppable force at the moment. The Cavalier was the second best selling car last month with 13,720 registrations.

Vauxhall's popularity, particularly in the all-important fleet car sector, has been largely at the expense of Ford, whose market share last month dipped to 28.1 per cent compared with 33.87 per cent a year earlier.

The Cavalier and the Ford Sierra (11,932 sales last month) are the leading contenders in the fleet market.

They are sandwiched in the best-sellers' list by the Ford Escort, still the country's favourite car with January sales of 16,577 and the BL Metro (11,115). Total car sales last month were 161,844.

The Vauxhall success, which includes Opel cars imported from West Germany and the new Nova from Spain, has eclipsed the more sedate rise of BL. Mr David Lahti, Vauxhall-Opel's director of marketing, said the 26 per cent increase over last January's sales figures confirmed company forecasts that it would sell 300,000 cars in Britain this year.

In the boom conditions of last year, when private buyers were responsible for the 15 per cent increase in total sales, BL's market share rose to 18.6 per cent from 17.8 per cent in 1982 and the trend was maintained in January with the company's penetration going up from 16.9 per cent a year ago to 17.98 per cent.

Cabinet weakened by fear of leaks

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Senior ministers are blaming a fear of leaks for the fact that more and more important government decisions, including the ban on trade union membership at the Cheltenham communications headquarters, are being taken outside the Cabinet.

Ministers who were not party to the Cheltenham decision believe that what they acknowledge has been a failure in the Government's presentation of its case could have been avoided if their colleagues with experience of security and labour relations had been consulted.

They believe that the principle of collective Cabinet responsibility is being strained because decisions are being taken not only outside the Cabinet, but even outside Cabinet committees.

That, it is said, makes it very difficult for ministers to speak out publicly in favour of decisions on which they were not consulted and of whose possible wider ramifications they are unaware.

The GCHQ decision was taken initially by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence. It is understood that a few other ministers, including Lord Whitelaw, who is in charge of presenting government policies, and Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, were involved later.

But the first most Cabinet ministers knew was when Sir Geoffrey announced the decision in the Commons on January 25.

Given the issue's sensitivity and the recent spate of leaks to newspapers of internal Cabinet documents, Sir Geoffrey's colleagues fully understand, and sympathize, with his decision not to circulate papers on his impending announcement.

But they wish, in retrospect, that he had made an oral presentation of the issues to the Cabinet, enabling other senior members to offer advice on the way it should be handled and at least to put themselves in a better position to defend it.

It is recalled by Cabinet ministers who served in the 1970-74 Heath government that all Cabinet committee decisions, even non-controversial ones, were reported to the

Continued on back page, col 1

Stronger guard on Indian envoys

By Craig Seton

Extra protection for Indian diplomats in Britain was ordered by the Government yesterday as police hunted the killers of Mr Ravindra Mhatre, the Assistant Commissioner at the Indian High Commission in Birmingham who was shot within 48 hours of being abducted in the street.

Shortly after the discovery of his body in a farm drive at Sapcote, near Hinckley, Leicestershire, on Sunday night, Mrs Indira Ghandi, India's Prime Minister, condemned his murder as "a cowardly and brutal outrage" while in the House of Commons yesterday Mr Leon Brittain, Home Secretary, announced "enhanced protection" for the diplomats.

Indian diplomatic missions throughout the world were also alerted to the dangers posed by the so-called Kashmir Liberation Army (KLA), the previously unknown group thought to have been responsible for Mr Mhatre's death after he was bundled into a car close to home in Bartley Green, Birmingham, on Friday night.

Mr Mhatre was shot twice – once in the head and once in the body – and he was killed some time on Sunday.

When he was found, his spectacles and a plastic lunchbox were missing. Last night police were interviewing a woman who witnessed his abduction.

West Midlands police and forces elsewhere in Britain interviewed Kashmiris in big cities as speculation increased about whether the killers were committed and cold-blooded terrorists or panic-stricken amateurs seeking the political limelight.

In Birmingham, where there are an estimated 15,000 Kashmiris, Mr Zubair Ansari, ce[illegible] secretary general of the Kas[illegible] Liberation Front, said he [illegible] been contacted twice by kidnappers about their [illegible]mands for £1m and the r[illegible] of Kashmiri prisoners in In[illegible].

Police are understood to [illegible] moved into Mr Ansari's [illegible] after the kidnappers' first contact and were able to tape-record at least two more calls.

The swiftness of the killing of Mr Mhatra a quietly spoken and mild-mannered man who had been in Birmingham for 18 months, shocked detectives and leaders of the West Midlands Indian community.

Mr Ansari said on Radio 4 yesterday that he had pleaded with the kidnappers for more time – five hours – but they had given him only three, and at 10pm on Saturday he had another three and was told in a tough and aggressive manner: "It looks as if you people have not taken it seriously. Now you will have to see and face the consequences."

Yesterday Dr V. A. Seyid Mohammad, Indian High Commissioner in Britain,

Continued on back page, col 6

Coal stocks 'record' despite ban

By David Young

Coal stocks at Britain's power stations are at a new record, with two million tons more in store than at the same time last year, according to Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

He told the Coal Industry Society yesterday that so far the only effect of the miners' overtine ban was a reduction in the number of calls from National Coal Board salesmen.

Sir Walter said that the CEGB remained committed to coal. "At Drax we are completing the construction of the largest coal-fired power station in Europe, capable of burning around 10 million tonnes of a coal a year, the current annual output of some 20,000 miners.

The main threat to jobs in the coal industry was not nuclear power, but old uneconomical pits. The number of new nuclear power stations planned could be "counted on one hand".

Sir Walter said: "The CEGB has constitently supported the coal board in its policy of closing loss-making pits and opening new ones.

"The concentration of production on economic pits is essential for the long-term viability of the coal board and the electricity supply industry; it is also in the best interests of the miners."

The CEGB will today announce the placement of orders for equipment for the Sizewell B Nuclear power station and the formal agreement between the UK and French power industries for joint development of fast-breeder reactors.

The Sizewell orders will be criticized by the anti-nuclear lobby as preempting the inquiry into the project and the fast-breeder deal as an extension of the present programme.

Successful launch for second satellite

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The space shuttle Challenger last night launched a second communications satellite into orbit, much to the trepidation of insurance companies already stung by the $100m (£70m) loss of the Westar VI on Friday.

The Westar has been located tumbling in orbit, intact and healthy but totally useless because it is at the wrong height. Nobody is sure what went wrong, making yesterday's launch a greater-than-usual gamble.

Tension was heightened by the other principal failure of the mission – the mysterious explosion of a balloon launched on Sunday.

The second communications satellite, the Indonesian-owned Palapa B2, was dispatched from Challenger's cargo bay normally and on time. The 7,300lb vessel was spun on a turntable inside the bay and released when it was revolving 50 times a minute.

The Westar was also launched normally; it was later that something went wrong, possibly with the booster rockets that should have put it at the right stationary orbit 22,300 miles high. The rocket has separted from the satellite and broken into chunks – one large piece and 11 fragments.

A ground station in California has succeeded in changing Westar's attitude so that its batteries are charged by the sun. Western Union, the owners, said: "As far as we know we have a spacecraft that completely healthy, in the wrong orbit".

Mr Robert Stewart, one of the crew reported from Challenger last night that the new deployment so far was "absolutely normal". Mission control in Cape Canaveral, Florida, responded: "cannot ask for any better".

Palapa b2 is intended to add to a communications network that serves the 13,000 islands of Indonesia as well as the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Papua New Guinea.

Free in space: Just after midnight GMT this morning (6.15 am US Central Time) two of the Challenger astronauts will make space history by walking in space unattached to their vehicle, Bill Johnstone writes.



The experiments, which will be repeated on Thursday beginning an hour earlier, are designed to test the manoeuvreability of the astronauts in a specially made suit and back-pack and the flexibility of a platform on which future astronauts will stand to erect structures in space.

One astronaut at a time will test his equipment in the cargo bay of the shuttle but tethered to the craft for safety. After that two experiments in free flight will take place when the astronaut will walk unattached in space for 150 ft and 300 ft from the craft.

The second part of the experiment requires the astronauts to test a platform which will be attached to a 50 ft articulated arm made of Boron Epoxy Composite covered with a heat shielding blanket.

The astronaut will have his feet fixed to the platform which will be placed in the "hand" of the robotic arm.

The entire programme of tests today and on Thursday is due to take about five hours and will not be affected by the loss of the Western Union satellite.

The loss of the satellite brings to over $300m the total insurance value of spacecraft lost in the past seven years. About 50 per cent has been covered by the London insurance market.

Fowler heads off revolt by reducing planned housing benefit cuts

By Nicholas Timmins and Philip Webster

The Government appeared last night to have headed off a large-scale backbench revolt by reducing by between £30m and £40m its planned cut in housing benefits in April.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, who was forced by pressure from MPs, local authorities, and the Government's Social Services Advisory Committee to modify the original proposal for a £230m cut in the scheme, said the cut would now be between £190m and £200m this year, with a review to be set up under an independent chairman of the scheme's structure, scope and administration.

The main burden of the changes, however, is to postpone many of them until November, and the reduction from the original cut of £230m will be only £15m next year.

The reduction in the cuts is to be offset by postponing a promised increase in April of £1 in the housing benefit children's needs allowance, which will save about £10m, with the remainder of the saving coming from other parts of the social security system and the Government's contingency reserve.

Last night it seemed that the Government had done enough to limit the threat of a big revolt. But Mr Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton Kemptown and co-chairman of the all-party parliamentary group for pensioners said that more than one million pensioners would *still* be among the 2.2 *million* recipients of housing benefit who would lose.

"It is very unlikely that I will vote for the regulations. It is a question of whether I abstain or vote against."

The changes were condemned as "minimal" by Age Concern, as only a "minor amelioration" by Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's spokesman on social services, and as "largely cosmetic" by Shac, the London Housing Aid Centre.

Under the concessions announced yesterday only two changes will come into effect on April 1. The "tapers" – the amount benefit is reduced for each £1 of extra income – will increase from 21p to 26p for rent and from 7p to 9p for rates; the original proposal was to increase the tapers to 31p and 9p respectively. In November, however, the taper for rent will increase by another 3p to 29p.

Also in April the amount by which benefit will be reduced for households with a non-dependent aged 18 or over will rise from £6.55 to £8.20, as originally proposed.

The Government, however, has postponed until November proposals to make similar deductions of £3.10 for 16 to 17-year-olds, and these will no longer apply to those in receipt of non-contributory invalidity pension.

Proposals not to pay housing benefit if it amounts to less than £1 for rent and 50p for rates have been modified. Those below the needs allowance – about 40,000 of the poorest families affected by the cut – will now continue to receive the present minimum payments of 20p and 10p; from November the minimum payment for rent assistance will be set at 50p instead of the £1 originally proposed.

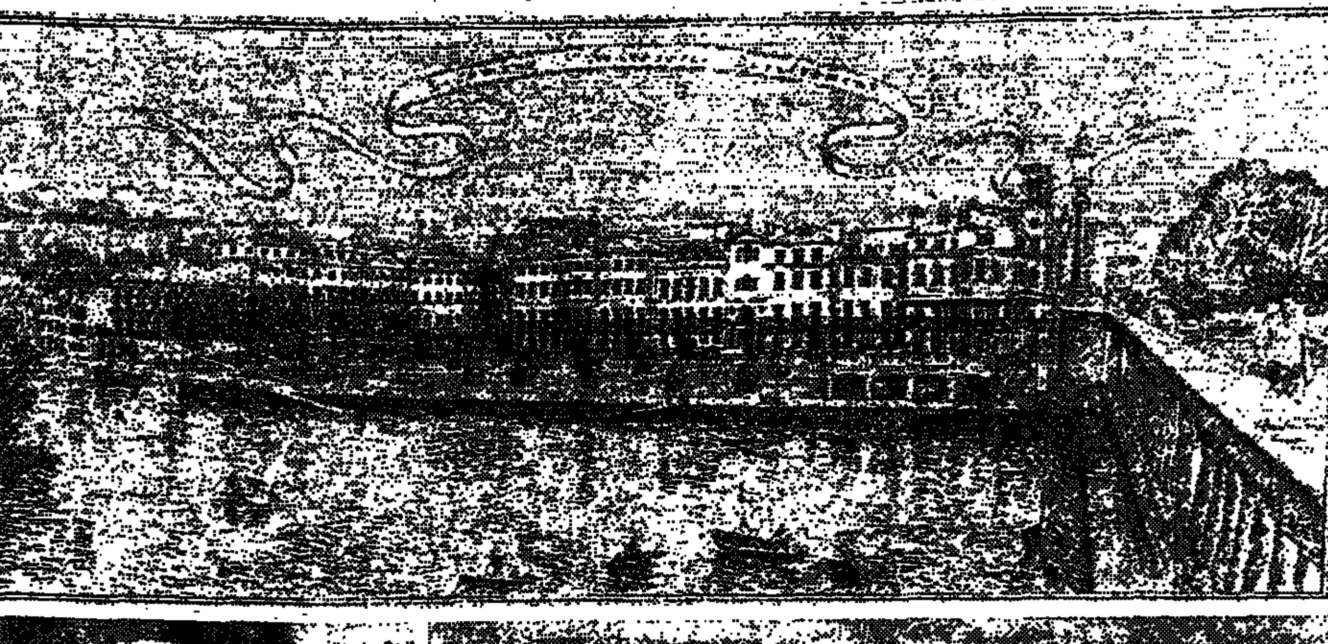
Plans to increase the thresholds at which higher rate of housing benefit can be paid in high rent areas have also been postponed until November.

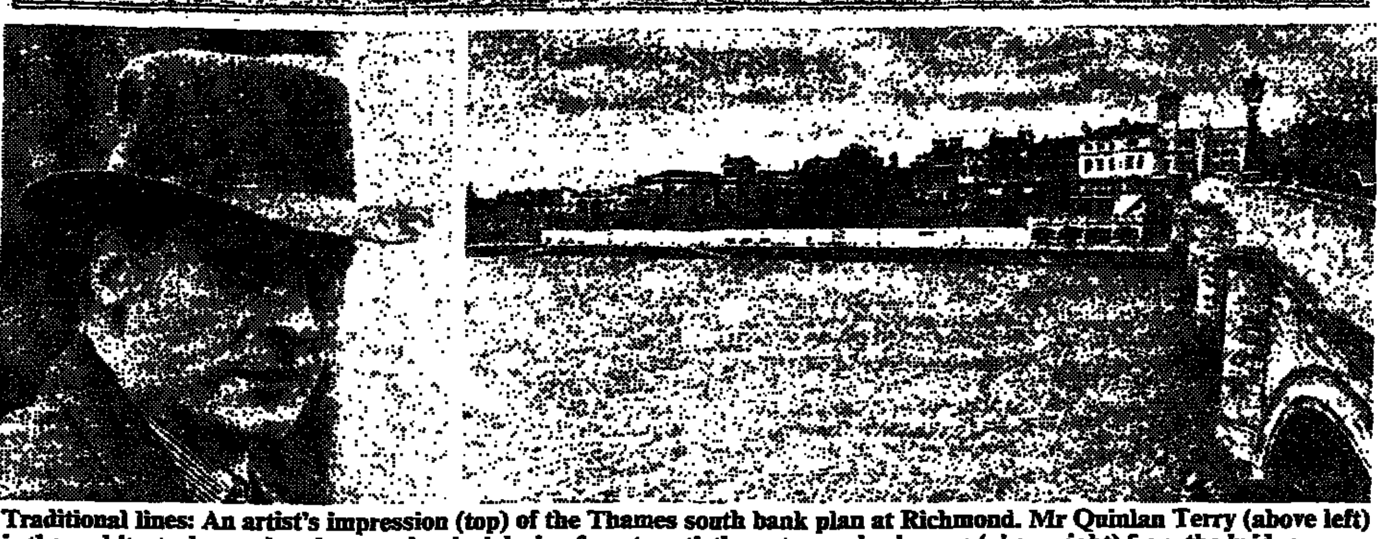
Mr Fowler said that the changes would mean that the average loss in April will fall from 96p to 70p, with the average loss for pensioners falling from 80p to 59p.

The Government has, however, yet to meet the recommendation in the advisory committee's report, published yesterday, and fiercely critical of the proposed £230m cut, that no one should lose more than £2 a week from the changes.

Shac said last night that a single pensioner with an income of £77 a week, and rent and rates of £23 a week, would still lose £2.33 a week from April, and £3.32 from November.

A family with one child at school and one 17-year-old, with an income of £135 a week, paying £33 in rent and rates, would lose £2.95 a week from April and £7.42 a week from November – a reduction of only 58p on the original proposals.





Traditional lines: An artist's impression (top) of the Thames south bank plan at Richmond. Mr Quinlan Terry (above left) is the architect who produced a neo-classical design for a twentieth-century suburb, seen (above right) from the bridge.

Classical revival proposed for riverside

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Richmond upon Thames Council will decide next month whether to approve a development scheme for a spectacular site on the river by Richmond Bridge which could herald a classical revival at the expense of modern architecture.

It is a £20m development plan for offices, shops and flats on a 3½ acre site on the south bank of the Thames, incorporating the late nineteenth-century old town hall, which would be restored and returned to the council for community use.

The scheme is the work of Mr Quinlan Terry, of Erith and Terry, a small firm which designs neo-classical buildings, appointed by Haslemere Estates.

Haslemere Estates and the Pension Fund Property Unity Trust have agreed to take over the development of the site from the English Property Corporation, whose modern development had been approved by the council.

In a public consultation exercise by the council, Haslemere's proposal – the Terry design – was easily the more popular, gaining 846 votes compared with 180 for the English Property Corporation's modern designs.

It is likely that the council will take a final decision on the site's future on March 6.

Mr Terry's scheme includes eight separate office buildings ranging in size from 3,500 sq ft to about 24,000 sq ft, and two restaurants looking on to the river.

The old Castle Hotel, an early Victorian building, would be replaced by a new building based on an eighteenth-century design by Sir William Chambers for a palace in Richmond for George II. The architect believes this is more in keeping with the rest of the scheme and the Richmond environment.

Mr Terry, who sees himself as a twentieth-century classicist, has been described as perhaps the last classical architect.

He says: "I don't think I will be the last. I believe it could easily catch on and architecture could go back to its traditional styles. It is a commonsense way of building.

"Modern architecture has not resulted in a way of building which produces a permanent fabric, nor resulted in way of building which produces a permanent fabric, nor is it pleasing to the eye. I believe I have much more in common with the man in the street and with builder than with the architects."

He said of the Richmond Bridge area: "Through my rose-coloured spectacles it reminded me of Venice."

He is happy to keep the Gothic town hall, acknowledging that it was built by a "competent" architect.

This is Mr Terry's biggest project, bigger than a Georgian divelopment in Soho on which he is now working

His work has always been treated with suspicion by the establishment, but there are signs that his Richmond plans are having an effect.

Six points for change in school teaching

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Changes in content are to be sought in the teaching of school subjects such as economic understanding, awareness of rights and responsibities under the law, and primary school mathematics.

Yesterday Professor Roger Blin-Stoyle explained that the new School Curriculum Development Committee, of which he is chairman, would be carrying out the wishes of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, who had said there was a need for "breadth, balance and cohesion".

The committee, which performs some of the functions of the defunct Schools Council spent more thn 12 hours at the weekend deciding six starting points for early action. Those included the development of a core curriculum, and "life skills" - education for employment and leisure.

The committee of 22, which includes educationists, local authority representatives advisers, head teachers, three representatives from industry and representatives from higher and further education, also decided that communication skills needed reform.

Sir Keith has told the committee last week that specific priorities might include oral work and reasoning skills, the development of writing and number concepts in younger children, means of making the curriculum more practical, and topic work in primary schools.

The later two were not mentioned by the committee in its announcement.

Professor Blin-Stoyle said the committee would consult local authorities about the priorities and would concentrate for the rest of the year on producing firm proposals for work it would initiate.

Asked for an example, he said much more could be done to encourage the use of calculators in primary schools, as advocated by Sir Wilfrid Cockcroft in his report on mathematics teaching.

He said he hoped there would not be problems with the National Union of Teachers, the biggest teachers' union, which refused to nominate members for the committee.

Cambridge claims record

Cambridge University last night celebrated 400 years of publishing, a record which it claims gives it the oldest university press in the world.

A spokesman for Cambridge University Press claimed that the printer Mr Thomas Thomas started publishing in 1584, a year before Oxford published its first book.

While Oxford University Press has its famous dictionaries, Cambridge distinguished itself particularly for its histories, particularly the New Cambridge Modern History.

The anniversary celebration was attended last night by the Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor, and Prince Edward

BBC faces libel action by MPs

Two Conservative MPs, Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton) and Mr Gerald Howath (Cannock and Burntwood) are suing the BBC for alleged libel over the *Panorama* programme *Maggie's Militant Tendency*, broadcast on January 30.

Their lawyers yesterday obtained High Court writs against the programme's editor, Mr Peter Ibbotson, its producer, Mr James Hagan and the presenter Mr Fred Emery, as well as Mr Philip M. Pedley, national chairman of the Young Conservatives.

Print pay offer

Leaders of 30,000 printworkers on national newspapers in London and Manchester yesterday said they would consider an increased pay offer of 4½ per cent from the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

GCHQ unions coin a defiant slogan

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Civil Service unions last night launched the second phase of their fight against government plans to ban unions at GCHQ with the slogan "No, Prime Minister."

Thousands of leaflets and badges carrying that message, along with a statement that "free unions cannot be bought", will be distributed to civil servants this week and at meetings at the out-stations of GCHQ.

The unions are awaiting a response to their proposals given to Mrs Thatcher last week to head off the ban. Although Whitehall sources indicated that she might offer to meet them later this week union officials are determined to press ahead with the campaign.

Meetings will be held at at least eight of the stations which supply data to GCHQ at Cheltenham over the next seven days. Union members will be urged by national officials not to sign away their membership for the £1,000 offered by the government.

Union activists at Cheltenham drew up plans yesterday to win support from residents and organize a petition.

Members of the main policy committee of the Council of Civil Service Unions meet today to review tactics.

A special meeting of the TUC's finance and general purpose committee, will hear a report tomorrow from Civil Service union leaders. They are eagerly awaiting an appearance by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, before a Commons select committee on Wednesday, when he is expected to receive a hostile reception, particularly from Labour members.

The unions expect some publicity counteroffensive from the Government this week

The unions also took comments by Sir Brian Tovey, a former director of GCHQ, over the past two days to be confirmation of their claim that the reason for the Government's move against them had been pressure from US intelligence agencies.

Forestry Commission defends land sales

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Forestry Commission yesterday denied that the sale of its land to private buyers would endanger the survival of ancient woodlands and sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

Friends of the Earth claimed at the weekend that the commission's plans to dispose of nearly 170,000 acres of woodland, worth about £85m, by 1986 were a scandal.

Voluntary conservation groups who wished to acquire the woods were being "gazumped" by commercial forestry interests, which intended to clear fell them or convert them into plantations to attract tax concessions, the group said.

The Countryside Commission had felt unable to give financial help to voluntary organizations bidding for woods which came on the market

But the Forestry Commission pointed out yesterday that as it was controlling authority responsible for issuing felling licences it was in a position to prevent pruchases from doing as they liked with the land they acquired.

When woodlands put up for sale were advertised as "scheduled for felling", that was because the trees were mature. But that did not automatically mean the land could be converted to agriculture or replanted with conifers



Moves to rescue Welsh hills

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

A four-year study by the Welsh Development Agency could provide Wales with a low cost way of tackling the ravages of the industrial revolution.

The agency's land reclamation department hopes that the study will help to turn hundreds of derelict sites into nature reserves which will not require expensive maintenance.

There are 35,000 acres of scarred land spoiling the landscape between Cardiff in the south and Colwyn Bay in the north, the legacy of a time when planning controls did not exist to constrain the activities of ironmasters and coal kings.

The study is being conducted by Professor A. D. Bradshaw of Liverpool University and the Robinson, Jones partnership of Blackwood, Gwent, at a cost of £80,000. It is designed to identify plants that can be introduced to the sites and left alone to colonize naturally.

The research is complicated by the fact that sites can have hugely different conditions. Flora which clings and breeds naturally on one coal tip may fail to gain a foothold on another across the valley floor.

At present most land reclamation projects involve expensive civil engineering and after clearance and landscaping have to be maintained. There are more than one thousand coal tips to be tackled and at least five hundred relics of other mining operations.

The department's present budget does not allow for clearance using traditional engineering methods. The agency hopes that the study will enable it to improve the landscape at a fraction of the present costs.

Particular hopes are being attached to the study because of fears that the agency's budget for land reclamation is about to be reduced drastically by government cuts from the present level of £13m a year.

The department is also active in research to remove the danger from old mines. It has instigated the development of new strains of grass which are beginning to minimize the danger from old lead workings which threatened to poison agricultural land and endanger health.

First blows struck in by-election









The leading contenders in the Chesterfield by-election exchanged their first verbal blows yesterday, almost before the ink had dried on the parliamentary writ naming March 1 as polling day.

Labour's Mr Wedgwood Benn (bottom right) was accused by the Conservative Mr Nicholas Bourne (centre) of not having the interests of the town at heart, and the Liberal MP Clement Freud, speaking on behalf of the Alliance candidate, Mr Max Payne (top), a polytechnic lecturer aged 54, said the Tories secretly hoped for a Benn victory that would do them more good than one more seat in Parliament.

Mr Bourne, a company secretary aged 32, said: "That is ridiculous. Our interest is in this country holding its head high." If Mr Benn won, people abroad would wonder what sort of country this has become".

Mr Bourne said the big issue would be what sort of person Chesterfield wanted to represent it. "Will they want someome just arrived in town at the first opportunity to get back into Parliament, or will they ask who has the interests of the town at heart?"

But Mr Benn defending a Labour majority of 7,763, shrugged off suggestions that as an "in-comer" to the town he might find the campaign difficult.

He said: "None of the other candidates was born in the town". He would fight purely on policies. "I have never referred in my life to other candidates by name and I shall not do so in this campaign.

Mr Benn, aged 58, the former MP for Bristol East, intends to "meet the people", holding fewer press conferences than the others. Today he will go down Arkwright colliery just outside Chesterfield at the invitation of the National Union of Mineworkers. Yesterday he shared a press conference with the union's president, Mr Arthur Scargill.

Most leading politicians of all three parties are booked to visit the town during the four-week campaign.

Tax rises have left some worse off

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The steep increase in taxes since 1979 when the Conservatives were elected to power has left the families of the lowest paid little better off and in some cases worse off than they were five years ago, the Treasury admitted yesterday.

In reply to a parliamentary question from Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Birmingham, Perry Bar, the Treasury said that after adjusting for inflation take-home pay for single people and married couples with earnings in the bottom tenth of the scale were slightly lower in April last year than five years earlier.

For couples with children, the increase during that time was less than 2 per cent. The figures do not take account of means-tested social security benefits they might be entitled to, but they do include child benefit.

That marks a strong contrast with average and above average wage earners who, after a dip between 1980 and 1982, are now substantially better off than five years ago. Real take-home pay for a single person on average earnings has increased by nearly 5 per cent, for a married couple by nearly 4 per cent, and for couples with children by 5½ per cent.

However, for income earners in the top 10 per cent, real take-home pay has surged by 13 per cent or more, reflecting the big cuts in higher rates of tax in Sir Geoffrey Howe's first Budget in 1979.

Average earnings have far outpaced inflation and tax increases during the past year. That may have helped to improve the position of the worst paid, but those on higher earnings may have done even better.

Star rebuff increases party rift

By Rupert Morris

The power struggle within the Communist Party of Great Britain increased intensity yesterday after its executive recieved a stunning rebuff from the People's Press Printing Society, the cooperative which owns the *Morning Star*, Britain's only Communist daily newspaper.

In a statement published in yesterday's *Morning Star*, the society unequivocally rejected the executive's demand for a new editor.

The executive, which is dominated by Eurocommunists, wants to ally itself more closely with other European leftist movements and has embarked on a campaign against members it perceives as being unduly pro-Soviet or Stalinist. Mr Tony Chater and Mr David Whitfield, editor and deputy editor of the *Morning Star*, are prime targets.

The party's views in the past have coincided with those of the *Morning Star*

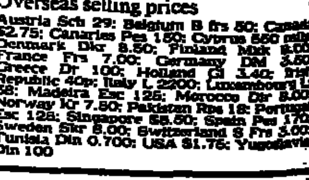
Cage bird imports banned

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

The Government last night banned the import of all cage birds, from midnight, because of outbreaks of Newcastle Disease at quarantine stations in north London and Essex.

Thousands of birds, mostly budgerigars, canaries and parrots, have been slaughtered as a precaution. A possible third outbreak, in Southampton, was being investigated yesterday.

The disease, a form of fowl pest, is indigenous to many parts of the world, including continental Europe. The risk of its return to Britain was used until last year to justify a ban on all poultry imports, which was lifted only on the insistence of the European Court.



Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 150; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 100; Holland Gl 3.40; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 58; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 8.00; Norway Kr 7.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore S$5.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 100

Sale room

Railway furniture fetches £22,800

By Huon Mallalieu

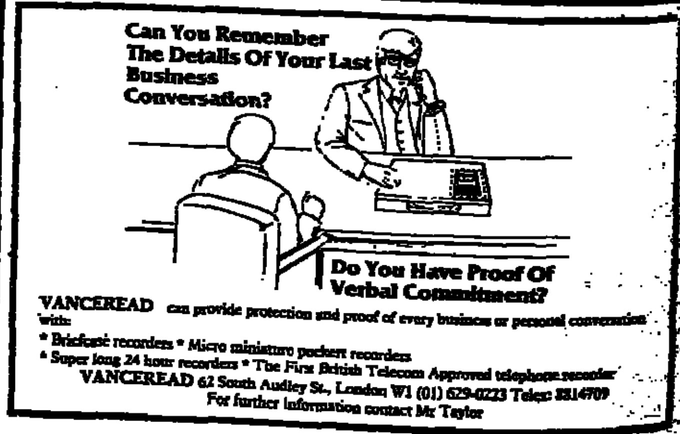
The railway trucks and carriages that enjoyed a second if humbler career in retirement as farm outbuildings are rapidly disappearing from the countryside, their skeletons covered by briars and nettles.

One such carriage, on a farm in south Wales, was investigated recently by a solicitor and a sale room expert who found inside various pieces of furniture covered with mould.

The contents were first taken to the comparative shelter of an open cowshed for inspection, and then taken to Phillips in Bath where three pieces were sold for a total of £22,800 yesterday. Sadly the couple who owned the farm died before the discovery.

The highest price was £18,000 paid for an early nineteenth century mahogany extending dining table with four supports, three extra leaves and an overall length of 10ft (estimate £5,000 to £6,000).

The other pieces were a nineteenth century carved oak centre table, which was probably Austrian, which sold for £2,900 (estimate £1,200 to £1,500); and a George III mahogany architect's table which made £1,900 (estimate £1,200 to £1,500). The furniture sale produced a total of £110,416 with 4 per cent bought in.



Police tape questioning of suspects in two-year experiment

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

A Home Office field trial in the use of tape recordrs to monitor the interrogation of suspects began yesterday at two London police stations and the headquarters of the fraud squad. Other trials will start soon in Leicester, South Tynside, the Wirrall and Winchester.

The Government has introduced the principle of tape recording in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which is going through its committee stage. The two-yar trials will identify any problems in a system designed to overcome disputes over "verbals", police notes of interviews.

Yesteday the equipment was demonstrated to the press at Croydon police station in south London. The recording will be done in two interview rooms off the charge room. Red lights marked "recording" warn that an interview is under way inside, where revording decks each holding two tapes have been installed.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner James Sewell, who sat on the Home Office committee setting up the trials, said that when an interview begins two sealed tape cassettes are unwrapped in front of the interviewee.

The suspect is given a written statement of his rights and the officer dictates into the recorder the time, place, and people present for the interview. The tapes each run to 45 minutes and when the interview is complete one is sealed as the master copy to be kept for six years. That tape may be used in court if there are disputes over evidence.

The other tape is used to make up notes for submission to the courts and to make further copies for the suspect and his solicitor.

Mr Sewell said the recorders had no erase button and the machines timed the tapes.

He said that if a suspect objected to being taped then the objection would be recorded. If a suspect made an admission on the way to the station and then denied it the interviewing policeman would put to him on tape that he had changed what he had said. The jury would still have to decide between the two versions.

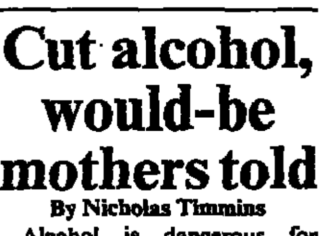
In cases where the suspect falsely suggested on the tape that he was being struck the interviewing officer would stop the tape, call in his superior and then start again. The suspect could be asked if he wished to make a complaint or see a doctor.

Mr Sewell said 800 officers had been trained in the use of the recorders, which have also been installed at Holborn police station. In recent years, Mr Sewell, a special form for taking down contemporaneous notes of interviews had removed many of the problems of the past. The recorders would protect both police and public from the "verbal syndrome".

The field trials would be examined by local steering committees chaired by a judge and composed of groups working in the courts.

Mr Larry Gostin, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said the tape-recording trials were welcome but there was a risk that more police questioning would take place outside the police station. That had happened in some Scottish forces where recording had been used.

Confessions should be ruled invalid unless they were made with a tape recording.



Michelle Sadler and Robert Vaughan on their engagement

Man arrested after dumper deaths

By a Staff Reporter

Scotland Yard arrested a man yesterday in connexion with the murder of a young engaged couple whose bodies were found in the scoop of a dumper truck in south London.

The couple, both aged 17, are thought to have been killed at about midday on Saturday at a basement workshop in Southwark. Their bodies were later moved 300yd to the dumper truck in a playground, where they were discovered on Sunday morning by a woman who was walking her dog.

The girl, Michelle Ann Sadler, was naked from the waist down and was lying on top of the fully clothed body of her fiancé, Robert Vaughan.

Police said she had been strangled and he had been stabbed in the chest and had his throat cut.

Chief Supt Douglas Shrubsole, who is in charge of the investigation, said: "This is one of the most vicious and horrific murders I have come across".

There was no sign of her missing clothing or of two gold neckchains and four rings, including her diamond engagement ring. Two gold rings had been removed from the boy's body.

Miss Sadler was last seen at 8.45am on Saturday when she left her home in Stepney to visit her fiancé. He was working overtime at Courier Displays in Union Street, where he had worked for 18 months. Her mother, Mrs Joyce Sadler, said yesterday that the couple had become engaged four months ago but they were not planning to marry for several years.

Miss Sadler was a prefect at the Sir John Cass Foundation and Redcoat Church of England school, where she was studying A levels in English and Sociology. She had planned to go into banking.

Cut alcohol, would-be mothers told

By Nicholas Timmins

Alcohol is dangerous for women seeking to become pregnant and should be abandoned or reduced to one or two drinks a day at most, according to a British Medical Association Family Doctor booklet published today.

Women planning to become pregnant should give up smoking, consider taking vitimin supplements, ensure they are immune to German measles, eat well and get fit, the booklet by Dr Phyllis Mortimer, a consultant obstetrician, says.

Men too should get fit and avoid too much smoking or drinking, as some experts believe they can affect the quality of a man's sperm.

Getting Fit for a Baby. (Family Doctor Publications, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP; 75p including postage).

Mark Vestey unable to walk

Mr Mark Vestey, younger brother of Lord Vestey, who damaged several vertebrae after falling from his horse while foxhunting near Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, on Sunday, is unable to walk but doctors hope eventually to restore movement.

A spokesman at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Buckinghamshire, said yesterday: "His condition is stable and he will be undergoing treatment for several weeks."

Tesco ban on Canadian fish

Tesco supermarkets are to stop selling fish products from Canada as a protest against the country's culling of seals. Mr Ian Maclaurin, Tesco's chairman-elect said: "We cannot remain impartial on this issue on which we have enormous sympathy."

The ban will affect canned salmon, but suppliers will be told to ensure that their products do not contain any Canadian fish.

Thames turtles

Five large turtles, believed to have escaped or to have been released from a private collection, have been seen in the Thames at Oxford. A team from Oxford University is trying to catch them.



Son's pride: Mark McVicker, aged 11, at US Navy Headquarters in London yesterday.

Boy gets father's Purple Heart

A British schoolboy yesterday took possession of a Purple Heart awarded posthumously to his American father who was killed, with 240 others, in the suicide bombing of the Marine headquarters in Beirut last October (Tony Samstag writes). The ceremony was held at the US Navy's European headquarters in Grosvenor Square, London.

Mark McVicker, aged 11, is the son of Navy Hospital Corpsman Second Class George N. McVicker, whose thirty-sixth birthday it would have been. The boy lives with his British mother in Reading and holds dual nationality. Mrs McVicker and her husband were divorced in 1977.

The Purple Heart was instituted by General George Washington when he was Commander-in-Chief of the American army during the war of independence. Presenting the award, Vice-Admiral M. Staser Holcomb, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the US Naval Forces, Europe, and the senior ranking US Navy officer in Britain, said that McVicker was part of "a long history of service and sacrifice".

He and all the members of the multinational peacekeeping force had gone to Beirut "not to fight a war, but to try to create conditions for peace and to prevent war from ravaging Lebanon". (Photograph: Barry Beattie).

Job cuts sought to save TV-am

By David Hewson

The breakfast television station TV-am is losing £400,000 a month and will run out of backing funds unless it reduces costs substantially, the management told the unions yesterday.

The company has used almost all of the £4.2m financial rescue package it arranged last autumn, and needs an additional £2m to pay staff wates and other commitments within the next few weeks.

TV-am's management has outlined a package of redundancies and cost-cutting measures to the two main unions involved, and has told them that unless the cuts are agreed, the company's backers are unlikely to provide the necessary funds to enable it to survive.

Trhe station has been badly affected by the continuing dispute between advertisers and the actors' union Equity which has halved it advertising revenue.

After a disastrous start, TV-am has recovered its standing in the breakfast ratings. It now regularly attracts 1.2 million viewers at peak time only a few points behind the BBC's *Breakfast Time*.

The company's costs are about £1.2m a month. However, advertising revenue for January and February is thought to have been about £800,000 a month, leaving the company with a shortfall of £400,000.

The TV-am management has asked for eight redundancies from the 100 members of the National Union of Journalists, and 20 from the 160 technicians, members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians. The redundancies have been rejected by both unions.

The company's board is due to meet tomrrow to discuss progress with the unions on cutting costs, and it is thought that they will refuse to raise any further loans unless the unions make sufficient concessions.

TV-am's backers feel it could recover much of its losses during the summer, when school holidays and the Los Angeles Olympics are expected to boost viewing figures.

Shy thinker in the Spectator's chair

By Colin Hughes

Meeting Mr Charles Moore is more like attending the rooms of a young fellow at a Cambridge college giving his first tutorial, than encountering the flurried world of a soon-to-be editor of one of Britian's most influential periodicals.

It is not only the sagging sofas facing each other alongside a square antique desk, nor the tomes lining the office wall, which encourage the comparison. Mr Moore, shy and nervous about his appointment as editor of the *Spectator* at the age of 27, is unashamedly an intellectual.

From Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied English and History – "only a 2.1 I'm afraid, not very good" – he landed a job "by fluke" with the Peterborough column of the *Daily Telegraph* and became a leader writer a year later.

He was invited to write leaders for "The Spec" (his abbreviation), and his appointment comes only seven months after joining the staff as assistant editor and polictical correspondent. "Obviously I cannot claim to have any experience," he says, showing an unaffected diffidence.

His first task yesterday was to meet Mr J G "Algy" Cluff, the magazine's proprietor, who appointed him by telephone amid disaffection among long-standing contributors like Auberon Waugh, Ferdinand Mount, and Richard Ingrams, over the removal of the present editor, Alexander Chancellor.

Any innocent questions about that meeting, or the departure of the journal's best-known names, brings an instant "off the record" or youthfull eagerness that everyone be friends again.

He embodies the *Spectator* ethic created by Mr Chancellor. "If people want information they buy *The Economist*. What I like is people who have something amusing or illuminating to say." Anti-collectivism is a hallmark; he is an "independent Tory" who declines to join the party.



Mr Charles Moore: Joined staff seven months ago.

Food prices 'kept high by British'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, vice-president of the European Commission, yesterday accused the British Government of deliberately keeping food prices artificially high.

He said that for nearly four years it had applied so-called positive monetary compensation amounts (MCAs) to cushion farmers against the effect of the strong pound.

"In everyday terms this means that prices paid by processors, and ultimately consumers, have been higher, generally by at least 5 per cent and often by much more, than the Community level," he claimed.

"This is tantamount to an additional tax which is in no way imposed on the United Kingdom by the Community. It is a self-imposed food tax."

British farmers are strongly resisting Commission proposals that the Government should revalue the Green Pound.

However, Mr Tugendhat, addressing a food processing awards ceremony in London, said there was nothing discriminatory in the proposals

He added: "What does surprise me is the eerie silence of leading politicians from those governments who are on record as deploring the excesses of the common agricultural policy and urging the need for lower prices in order to cut costs."

Bachelor's singing 'like a drowning rat'

The singing of John Stokes, a member of The Bachelors pop group, had become so bad that an expert had likened it to "the voice of a drowning rat, with an uncontrollable vibrato", Mr Justice Gibson was told in the High Court in London yesterday. Last November, Dec and Con Cluskey, the other group members, decided to dismiss Mr Stokes, aged 47, who had been with The Bachelors since they were formed more than 20 years ago.

Mr Stokes is seeking a tempoary court order stopping the brothers performing as The Bachelors without him and the appointment of a receiver and manager of The Bachelors Ltd until the dispute is settled.

Dec and Con Cluskey have said that Mr Stokes's voice had to overdubbed without his knowledge on recordings of *I Wouldn't Trade Her for the World* and *Ramona*.

They also accused him of reading music in front of audiences.

But Mr Stokes told the court that his voice had not been the subject of constant complaint or that it had been overdubbed

The hearing continues today.

Sleepy DJ dismissed

Vinny Connell, a disc jockey with the independent Radio City in Liverpool, was dismissed last October for turning up late for his afternoon show and being drunk and aggressive at personal appearances, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Mr Walter Scott, the deputy programme controller, said that Mr Connell, aged 32, an Irishman, arrived looking dishevelled, tired and that his bright yellow trousers looked as though they had been slept in.

Mr Brian Smart, another disc jockey, said: "On a Sunday Vinny's programme would follow mine, but sometimes he was so late I would have to carry on until he arrived. Later he started sleeping on the couch in reception so we could wake him up. He used to come in after the clubs shut at 3am.

The hearing was adjourned.

Princess gets rare vaccine for Africa visit

By Alan Hamilton

Princess Anne has had to subject herself to a course of rare, expensive, and potentially dangerous inoculations in prepration for her visit later this month to one of the poorest and hungriest corners of the earth during a tour of West Africa.

In addition to the normal precautionary treatments for cholera, polio, tetanus, typhoid, typhus, and yellow fever, the Princess has within the past few days been given inoculations against meningitis, rabies, and hepatitis. The meningitis A and C vaccine is almost unobtainable in Britain and the anti-rabies treatment is expensive although increasingly available. However, the hepatitis B vaccine is regarded with some suspicion by doctors as being possibly more harmful than the disease itself.

The Princess, who is president of the British section of the Save the Children Fund, will be the first official British visitor to enter the state of Upper Volta, regarded as one of the world's most deprived nations. She will travel to the remote north of the country, where the encroaching Sahara has cut a hopeless swathe of drought and famine.

There is no diplomatic mission in Upper Volta. During her two-day visit, the Princess will spend one night at a Catholic mission, and one night at the American Embassy in the capital, Ouagadougou.

She is scheduled to have a brief meeting with President Sankhara of Upper Volta, and to host a reception of the country's British community, which numbers little more than twenty. But her main purpose will be to see at first hand the work of Save the Children, which has spent about £120,000 a year for the past 10 years in the country on basic health care projects.

In addition it spent £35,000 recently on emergency disaster relief, providing grain and transport for the near-starving Tuareg nomads from the southern Sahara. The Princess will visit a hospital at Gorom Gorom where Save the Children is attempting to care for malnourished children.

Princess Anne leaves London on Saturday for a visit to the Winter Olympics at Sarajevo in her capacity as president of the British Olympic Association. From there she is due to fly to Morocco to inspect a Save the Children school for young polio victims at Khemisset.

She will be the first member of the Royal Family to visit Morocco since the Queen's state visit in 1980, when King Hassan gravely transgressed royal protocol by keeping the British monarch waiting at a state banquet.

Princess Anne will hen fly to The Gambia, the first Royal visitor to the Commonwealth republic since the Duke of Kent represented the Queen at independence celebrations in 1965. The Princess will participate in Independence Day anniversary celebrations

During the tour the Princess will be accompanied by Mr John Cumber, the director-general of the Save the Children Fund. The Princess will travel with the RAF or in aircraft of the Queen's Flight, which are maintained by lthe Ministry of Defence, except for the homeward flight when she will travel on a scheduled service of British Caledonian.

The call on public funds is defended on the ground that the Princess is undertaking a number of official duties during her tour, particularly in The Gambia.

PRINCESS ANNE'S AFRICA TOUR

Feb 15 Sarajevo – Rabat; Feb 16 Day trip to Khemisset; Feb 16 Fly to Banjul; Feb 17 Functions in vicinity of Banjul; Feb 18–19 Sail upriver from Banjul to Carrols Wharf. Visit Georgetown, Allatantu, Bansang and Basse (overnight stop); Feb 20 Return to Banjul by car; Feb 21 Fly to Ouagadougou; Feb 22 Fly to Gorom Gorom; Feb 23 Fly back to Ouagadougou; Feb 24 Fly back to Banjul; Feb 25 To Gatwick

PARLIAMENT February 6 1984

Housing benefit rule change to help more people

SOCIAL SECURITY

The rules under which housing benefit is paid to poorer families are to be amended with the intention of helping about 1,300,000 households, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced in a statement to the Commons. He said that about 300,000 families would now not lose their entitlement as they would have done under modifications to the rules he had proposed last year.

He added that as so many local authorities were having difficulty in administering the scheme, there was to be a review of it under an independent chairman.

Mr Fowler said: I announced on November 17 last year that the Government proposed to make some changes to the housing benefit scheme with a view to containing the rapidly escalating cost of the benefit. As is required by the 1980 Social Security Act, I submitted drafts of the regulations giving effect to those changes to the Social Security Advisory Committee.

In their report, the Social Security Advisory Committee were particularly concerned about the effect of the proposals on lower-income beneficiaries and the possible cumulative impact of the proposals on a minority of families. They suggested a number of amendments to the proposals designed to alleviate these effects.

At the same time they conceded that there were some aspects of the housing benefit scheme which extend financial help further up the income ladder than anywhere else in the social security system, and that if cuts in social security spending are essential it might be reasonable to take resources from there rather than from the means-tested safety net.

I have considered the committee's report and all the representations which have been made very carefully. Clearly it is essential for the Government to maintain firm control of public expenditure and in the last 10 years cash expenditure on the former rent and rate rebates scheme has increased tenfold – an increase of 140 per cent in real terms.

It is also reasonable to propose that where a non-dependant is living in the house of someone claiming housing benefit, that non-dependant should be expected to make a contribution to housing costs and that the housing benefit paid to a claimant should be reduced accordingly.

Nevertheless, in view of the representations made the Government has decided to modify the proposed changes with three principal objectives:

To lessen the scale of any reductions in benefit to be faced by individual families;

To minimise the impact of changes on those on lower incomes, including pensioners;

And to simplify the changes which will have to be made. The revised proposals take full account of the administrative problems involved in the changes.

The Government now proposes to make only two changes to the housing benefit scheme in April:

First, the "tapers" for assistance with rents will increase from 21 per cent to 26 per cent (instead of 31 per cent as originally proposed); and for rates from 7 per cent to 9 per cent. This will have the effect of halving the losses resulting from per changes in assistance with rent.

Second, the deductions made for non-dependants aged 18 or over will be increased as originally proposed; but the qualifying period for modification of those deductions will be reduced from 90 days to 56 days as proposed by the advisory committee.

In addition the proposed changes on the supplementary benefit non-householders housing contribution will go ahead.

Other changes which were to have been made in housing benefit in April have been either postponed or dropped. This will allow time for families and for local authorities to adjust to those of the changes which still have to be made.

The remainder of the proposals therefore provide that:

There now will be no change in the minimum payments for the poorest claimants – those with income levels below their needs allowance;

Increases in the minimum payment levels for other claimants will not take effect until November 1984 and the minimum payment for rent assistance will be set at 50p instead of £1 as originally proposed;

The requirement for 16- 17-year-olds not on supplementary benefit or youth training schemes to make a contribution to housing costs will not come into effect until November 1984 and will not apply to those in receipt of non-contributory invalidity pension;

The modification to the criteria for eligibility for high rent schemes will also be postponed to November 1984 when current authorisations expire;

The rent tapers will be increased in November, but only from 26 per cent to 29 per cent, not 31 per cent as originally proposed.

The restructuring of the proposals which I have outlined will reduce significantly the savings which can be made, particularly in 1984-85. I have therefore had to postpone the real increase in the housing benefit children's needs allowance which I had announced would be introduced from April.

The allowance was to have been increased from £11.90 to £12.90. That cannot now be achieved in April. But I am glad to say that it will still be possible to implement an increase of 50p in November 1984 and a further increase of £1 will be made in April 1985. The children's needs allowance will then have been increased by £1.50 in real terms compared with the increase of £1 originally proposed.

Taken together, these modifications will help about 1,300,000 households and will mean that about 300,000 families will not now lose entitlement to benefit in April. Moreover, I propose to discuss with the local authorities how a limit on individual losses from the taper and high rent scheme changes can be brought into effect in November.



Fowler: Independent review



Meacher: Attack on poor

All these changes will be accommodated withing the Government's existing expenditure plans. But the enormous growth of housing benefit expenditure and the income levels at which it is paid require further consideration. Equally the continuing difficulties which some local authorities are still experiencing in handling claims and payments is causing anxiety for individual families.

The Government feels, therefore, a review of the scheme and its operation is required. Its main objectives will be to examine the structure and scope of the scheme to ensure it is as simple as possible and that help is concentrated on those most in need, and to improve its administration by local authorities.

I shall be appointing a small review team under independent chairmanship to report to me so that I may consider urgently what action needs to be taken. I shall also ask the review team to consider the issues which the advisory committee identified as requiring further consideration.

The revised proposals I have described today will soon be debated. Nevertheless, I thought it right that prior to that debate I shall describe in a statement to the House the changes that are being proposed. I believe they represent a reasonable balance between the protection of individual benefit recipients and the need to bring under control expenditure on housing benefit which is now running at almost £4,000m a year.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social services: This minor amelioration to yet another Government attack on the poor will still leave pensioners and some of the lowest income families in our society about £150m worse off this April and about £190m worse off next November.

What justification is there, even after these changes, for cutting the standard of living for pensioners by up to £2.50 a week and for poor families by more than £3 a week when in successive Budgets the Government has given huges taxreliefs to the rich on more than £30,000 a year, leaving them no less than a staggeing £162 a week better off than in 1979.

There is still abundant evidence from all over the country, 10 months after the introduction of this half-baked folly, of muddle, confusion and bungling on a scale without recent prrecedent.

Thousands are losing benefit they are entitled to because local authorities, such as Sunderland, have not got the staff or the time to send out the necessary rebate forms. In Liverpool, for example, people are still waiting for benefit after an eight-month delay.

Since there are already almost 3,900,000 standard cases in the pipeline due for individual review this April, these futher changes announced today simply cannot be implemented before April 1 without an even greater shambles.

Will Mr Fowler therefore completely withdraw the changes in order to carry out the full scale review that is manifestly needed before proceeding with what is still a fundamentally unjust and inept measure.

Mr Fowler: That is an absurd reponse. He does not even have the courage to welcome a review which he has actually being calling for.

Some 4,500,000 beneficiares will not be affected by taper and minima chages of all. Of those claimants who are affected, more than 50 per cent of all claimants and 60 per cent of pensioners lose less than 50p. Eight over per cent of all claimants and 87 per cent of pensioners lose less than £1.

We have in mind a small review team under an independent chairman. Clearly one of the jobs of that inquiry will be to see whether the local authorities have been responsible for any of the problems.

Mr Meacher once more ignores the fact that the previous arrangements for housing benefit were widely criticized or recognized as unsatisfactory. The principle of this change has substantial support.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Northfield, C): One of the great failures of the scheme was in administration. Many poor people were badly disadvantaged by the length of time, in Birmingham for example, it took to sort out housing benefits.

Mr Fowler: What we are seeking to do is to protect the interests particularly of pensioners on low incomes. Birmingham has had particular problems related to the recent strike at DHSS offices.

We would like the inquiry to look at the administration and to make proposals on how local authorities can improve the services for the public and recipients.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) said the scheme had been hastily and badly conceived. It was no good blaming the increase in housing benefit need on anything but the Government's economic policies.

The demand inside and outside the house would not be met by a concession to delay certain cuts in return for postponing the children's needs allowance. The needs of the poorest would be met only by tax credits and benefits being integrated into a simple and efficient scheme.

Mr Fowler said the cost of such proposals would add substantially to the social security bill, now costing £37,000m.

Mr Fowler said later that very few people would lose more than £3 a week. That figure had been substantially cut. In regard to April, he did not think there would be any losses of more than £3 a week. Of other recipients, only 1 per cent of beneficiaries would do so.

Enhanced protection for Indian diplomats

TERRORISM

Arrangements have been made to enhance protection given to Indian diplomatic staff following the kidnap and murder of Mr R. H. Mhatre, an assistant commissioner in the Birmingham office of the Indian High Commission, Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, announced in the Commons.

Mr Brittan made a statement on the murder, saying that he would give the West Midlands Police any further assistance required in the investigation.

The seriousness with which this matter is being pursued and the fact that I have reported to the House at the earliest opportunity (he added) underlines the Government's determination to stand firm againt terrorists and their violence. There can be no place whatsoever for either in this country.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, Chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, asked whether the Government or police had had any advance warning about the incident and whether that had been communicated to West Midlands police.

Mr Brittan: The Government had had no advance warning of any such threats and I am not aware of any threats to Indian diplomats in the past. Of course we are reviewing all arrangements for the security of diplomats in the light of what has occured but there are 72 people with full diplomatic status in the Indian High Commission alone and the police have to make their assessment, in the case of all diplomats, of what measures can and should be taken.

Their assessment has led to enhanced protection in the case of Indian diplomats in the light of this affair.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Co-operative Development Agency and Industrial Development Bill, second reading. **Lords** (2.30): Agricultural Holdings Bill, report. Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations. Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, report.

British troops stay as ministers consult

LEBANON

The Government does not intend to withdraw the British contingent from the multinational peace-keeping force in Lebanon precipitately and it would not be right to take a rapid and panic decision in the light of the very serious events there in the past few days, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons.

Replying to a private notice question from Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C), asking if he would consider the immediate withdrawal of British forces from the Lebanon, Mr Luce said Britain was consulting its partners in the multinational force and would keep the situation under close review.

Mr Marlow: The Foreign Secretary said on January 11 that the purpose of the multinational force was to help extend the authority of the legitimate government of the Lebanon. As there is now no such government, and as it is most unlikely that there can be any such government until such time as the May Accords with Israel have been dumped, would he signify to our allies that there is no present purpose in our presence there?

Mr Luce: There has been a great deal of discussion within and among the parties on the whole question of that Accord and the particular purpose of that was to provide for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces which is one of the major and important factors which we support, if there is to be reconcilliation in the Lebanon, let alone among other foreign forces.

If alternatives which are just as good or better are put forward as a compromise plan which allows for the Lebanon to be independent and sovereign but also caters for the security of Israel on its northern border, we do not think it is right to stand in their way.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Leeds, East, Lab): The time for diplomatic gobbledigook for the Lebanon has long passed. Now there has been a complete collapse of law and order in the Lebanon and the Lebanese army has disintegrated into its Muslem and Christian components, would he approach President Reagan and ask him to fulfil the undertaking he made in December to withdraw US forces once there was a collapse of law and order in Beirut, and encourage the President to do so by the immediate withdrawal of the British forces?

Would he agree that when even the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia can describe the US presence as shameful, as he did on Friday, the continued presence of British and US forces in the Lebanon can only do immense damage to British and western interests in the Middle East and poses totally unjustified risks to the British soldiers who have no conceivable role to play there at the present time?

Mr Luce: We have nothing but admiration for the work of these 100 men over the past few months in the two main tasks they have had to fulfil – that is to guard the ceasefire commission at the request of all the parties and undertake the patrolling of all the main streets of Beirut.

I do not think we in any way underestimate the gravity of the past few days at all and I want to assure Mr Healey we, in conjunction with our multinational force partners, are assessing and weighing up very carefully the implications of what is happening in the Lebanon at the present time.

The judgment we have to make, and it is a very difficult balance to strike, is whether or not the multinational force, by staying, means there is still a prospect that there can be reconcilliation among the parties and that Lebanon can proceed towards independence, full sovereignty and stability. That is one of the main criteria we have to take into account. The safety of the men is, of course, a very important factor at all times.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale): Will he confirm that the British troops are there for the sole purpose of supporting President Gemayel in his almost impossible task of restoring national reconciliation, and for no other purpose, and the US is making his task even more difficult by refusing to countenance the changes in the treaty agreements between Israel and Lebanon which President Gemayel himself is seeking?

Mr Luce: We are not there in order to take sides, one faction against the other. That is not our objective. If we were to do so, it would not be possible for us to even start to fulfil our objective which is to see what we can do in the greater Beirut area to assist the process of reconcilation and thereby add to the prospect of greater stability in Lebanon.

Unionist protest at agricultural policies

ULSTER

Throughout many decades United Kingdom policies had been the bedrock upon which a prosperous agricultural industry in Northern Ireland had been built, Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons. They continued to provide a firm base for Northern Ireland agricultural prosperity, he said.

Mr William Ross (Londonderry East, OUP) had moved a motion calling upon the Government to counteract the damaging effects of EEC membership on the agricultural industry in the province. He said the effect of EEC policies had been to concentrate productivity in a decreasing number of sectors. The diversity formerly enjoyed by Northern Ireland agriculture had been eroded and it was being confined to far too narrow a base for the welfare of the agricultural community.

Moving a Government amendment acknowledging advantages as well as disadvantages to Northern Ireland agriculture in EEC membership, Mr Butler said that if the European Commission's present proposals were implemented they would be damaging to the farming interests of every member state.

No debate on Oman contract

Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on the conduct of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, her husband and her son over the contract to build a university in Oman.

He said it was important to learn how the Prime Minister came to be involved in the contract in the first place.

For the past three weeks (he went on) the Prime Minister appears to be saying to the House that her family is above the constitution whereas MPs have been trying to say that her family may be becoming the unacceptable face of democracy.

Why anti-terror Bill is needed

HOUSE OF LORDS

The death of Mr Mhatre, assistant commissioner in the Birmingham office of the Indian High Commission, pointed up the necessity which the Government saw for ensuring that the powers in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill should extend to internationsl as well as to Northern Ireland terrorism, Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said during the second reading debate on the Bill in the House of Lords.

It was another stark and repulsive example of the asassin's work, the minister said, expressing the deep regret and repulsion which the event had caused in the Government.

He pointed out that a report by Earl Jellicoe, who conducted an inquiry into the legislation, concluded that if such powers such as this were removed, the forces of law and order would be seriously handicapped in their duty to protect the lives of citizens. The right to live was the most fundamental human right there was.

One the powers of arrest and detention in the Bill, attention had been drawn that as at present drafted clause 12 empowered the police to arrest and detain members of organizations dedicated to the overthrow of what they regarded as pooressive regimes in their own country. In response to this concern a Home Office minister undertook to see whether the clause could be redrafted to allow these fears to be removed.

The Home Secretary (Mr Leon Brittan) had concluded that the only means of limiting the scope of the clause was to proceed by way of assurance and circular. It was the Government's intention in giving guidance to the police to advise them that the powers in clause 12 should only be used in relation to international terrorists where there was some prospect either of a charge before a United Kingdom court or that the person would be deported.

So long as the threat of terrorism remained the powers in the Bill were essential.

If we are to try (he said) to protect our way of life from the ugly savagery which terrorism can inflict upon us we must have this legislation.

Lord Mishcon, for the Opposition, said that 95 per cent of those arrested under the legislation had either not even been charged or had been found after charge to be innocent.

The evidence would appear to show that the powers of arrest under the legislation had largely been used not as a result of reasonable suspicion of involvement in anything to do with terrorism but to gather information about Irish people and those involved in Irish politics.

It was an indication of a dangerous shift in the concept of crime as a basis of police action to that of political views. It was a shift which could be the beginning of a slippery slope.

A provision which the Oppostion would try to remove from the Bill was that containing the criminal offence in Britian of withholding information from the police about future acts of terrorism or people involved in it if they were connected with Irish affairs.

Lord Henderson of Brompton, in a maiden speech, agreed on the necessity for the Bill subject to stringent safeguards.

The Bill was read a second time.

Preserving confidentiality of NHS records

The Data Protection Bill would not affect existing arrangements within the national health service governing the use and disclosure of personal health information, Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

But, he added, the Government recognized the fundamental importance of maintaining the confidentiality of health records, and the DHSS was discussing with representatives of the health professions how those arrangements might be put on a more formal footing.

The provisions of the Bill would apply to personal health data as they would to any other personal data. Any person who controlled the contents and use of automatically processed health data would be required to register as a data user and to comply with the data protection principles set out in Schedule 1 to the Bill.

The use to which personal health data were put would therefore be set out in the register which both patients and doctors would be able to inspect.

Commuter trains not badly cut

TRANSPORT

Scaremongering stories had been circulating about the extent to which railway services were to be cut, Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Trasnport, said during questions in the Commons.

In London and the South-East overall (he said) the cut-back is only to the extent of 2 per cent of loaded train mile and in the country as a whole, it is one per cent.

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition transport spokesman, had asked if the minister was satisfied that the timetable changes proposed on British Rail Southern Region would not adversely affect the interests of commuters.

Mr Mitchell: Timetable decisions are a matter for the railways board. They are seeking to improve the match between supply and demand.

Mr Snape: The general manager of Southern Region recently conceded that these reductions, the third in eight years in the South, are caused by the problem of having to match the potential future pattern of services with available finance. He added that the reductions would lead to 135 per cent occupancy in the case of many commuter trains into London.

On Southern Region they are likely to increase fares in real terms by 1 per cent each year in future. Southern Region commuters will face paying Pulman prices for cattle-truck conditions.

Mr Mitchell: There are substantial improvements in some areas of Southern Region and the board have sought to match supply and demand: for example, to East Croydon, Reigate, Horsham, Portsmouth, Hayes, Tonbridge, Dartford and the new non-stop service to Gatwick. These are substantial improvements, but where you are balancing supply and demand you have improvements and reductions at the same time.

M. John Cartwright (Woolwich, SDP): Why are there so many planned cuts on Southern Region for South-East London, the forgotten corner of the cty, which has no London Transport tube to the city centre and congested road links? Why should people who depend so heavily on British Rail find their services so seriously cut?

Mr Mitchell: Because of changes in the pattern of travel to work. There have been considerable changes in the movement of people to and from work and the railways board have sought to recognize that and match their services to it.

Mr Roger Sims (Chislehurst, C): Although I have criticized BR in the past for failing to consult on changes in the timetable, I am satisfied that BR have gone out of their way to consult local authorities and passenger organizations and are trying to match demand with the new timetables. But they still seem to think that life in London ends at 11.30 pm.

Mr Mitchell: Some of us might wish it would. (Laughter). After the knocking we had from the Opposition, the chairman BR will be grateful for remarks about consultation.

Ridley warning on proposed lorry ban

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Commons that he had made it clear to the Greater London Council that he would want to consider very carefully all the evidence upon which a night-time and week-end ban on heavy lorries in the council's area was proposed.

He described such a proposal as "stupid". I would not (he said) support measures which inflicted damage on London's economy and I will not hesitate to use my reserve powers if necessary.

Mr John Hunt (Ravensbourne, C) said the proposed ban would have a particularly devastating effect on the major supermarket companies, increasing their costs and prices and threatening at least 8,000 jobs in depots in the GLC area.

The minister (he continued) should continue to do all he can to curb the GLC's madness.

Mr Ridley: He is right. I gather that Marks and Spencer, with a turnover of £600m in London, providing 14,000 jobs, say they have already decided to locate their next food depot outside London if there is such a ban. Sainsburys say 1,296 jobs would be at risk.



Hunt: Bad effect on supermarkets

These are the sort of considerations I expect the GLC to take account of before doing anything rash.

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab): There has not been any substantive proposal from the GLC so far. There is still room for improvement in the delicate balance between the environment, transport and employment.

Mr Ridley: While I agree with the vague statement at the end, we have had no view from the Opposition Front Bench. Do we take the silence to mean they agee that the GLC might be making a grievous mistake if they pursued this stupid plan?

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said the Opposition was at least prepared to consider the views of the Wood report into the whole question and to let such decisions rest with the elected representatives of Londoners.

Unlike Mr Ridley (he said) we are not interested in making political points in favour of heavy lorries to guarantee an even further boost to the Conservative Party treasury from heavy goods vehicle operators.

Mr Ridley: I am sorry to hear that Mr Snape finds such difficulty in combining a posture of sitting on the fence with being in the pocket of the GLC.

Judges and police can be masons

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, rejected a call by Mr Austin Mitchell (Great Grimsby, Lab) that in view of evidence sent to him indicating that membership of masonic lodges was detrimental to the fair and efficient exercise of their responsibilities by judges in the courts, the Lord Chancellor should make it a condition of the appointment of judges that they were not members of such bodies.

Sir Michael Havers said the conditions for appointment to, and tenure of, judicial office were prescribed by statute and no minister had power to modify those or add to them. The independence of the judiciary from the executive, thus guaranteed, was a principle of great constitutional importance.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State, Home Office, also rejected a similar question calling for prohibitation of the police from membership of masonic lodges. Such a prohibition, he said, would be an unwarranted restriction on the private lives of police officers.

Police regulations required police officers to abstain from any activity likely to interfere with the impartial discharge of their duties. Failure to comply with this requirement was a disciplinary offence and any specific evidence of such failure should be brought to the attention of the authorities in the usual way.

Whitehall brief

Sailor with freedom to think

By Peter Hennessy

If Admiral Sir James Eberle, the ebullient new director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was instead at 10 Downing Street advising the Prime Minister, the arguments would be wondrous to behold.

The 56-year-old missile expert, judged by the dispensers of Whitehall patronage too outspoken to be First Sea Lord (he was highly critical of the Trident programme on cost grounds, preferring Britain's next deterrent to be cruise missiles launched from Hunter-killer submarines) last week indulged in another bout of heterodoxy.

Reflecting on the pleasures of running Chatham House, the nation's influential private foreign policy think tank after one month in the job, he revelled in the freedom to ponder and talk about issues without the constraints that bind a Whitehall insider.

"On the Falklands now, nobody in the Foreign Office can write down the word 'sovereignty'. Somebody has got to think about that," he said.

The same applied to talking to the Russians, he added. Chatham House is about to begin a study of detente during the 1970s: what happened to it and what lessons it holds for future East-West relations. Sir James is very keen on historical perspectives as a guide to future policy making.

For example, the 1982 war in the South Atlantic clearly haunts him. On the Franks Report, he believes it was not so much the blemishes in the foreign and defence policy-making machinery that mattered, but more the people involved in it.

It was no good, either, saying that ministerial responsibility meant failure could be dumped into the lap of the politicians. "You should go back to who was advising Mr John Nott, the Secretary of State for Defence: the admirals. I will accept my share of the responsibility," he said.

In 1980, as Commander-in-Chief, Fleet, Sir James was visited at his Northwood headquarters in the London suburbs by Mr (now Sir) Rex Hunt, then about to take over as Governor of the Falkland Islands.

Their conversation set Sir James thinking. He knew he was responsible for the Royal Marines of Naval Party 8901 and for rebuilding their barracks at Moody Brook, but who was in charge operationally?

Whitehall was, his staff said. "I said 'I don't like it. I'm going down there'." His staff said the trip would take two weeks and he did not have the time. "I'm not in any sense claiming it would have made the difference between peace and war, but we might have been a little less unprepared," he said.

Chatham House's headhunters picked Sir James from a glittering field of candidates, keen to fill the vacancy left by Mr David Watt, for three reasons: he knew the inside of Whitehall, but was not a Foreign Office man whose appointment might have put a question mark on the institute's independence; he had plenty of intellectual horsepower; he was a considerable organizer and motivator of others, qualities needed if a decline in funds and activities was to be reversed.

Sir James was reluctant to leave Dartmoor to which he had retired to farm and to hunt.



Sir James: Picked by Chatham House from a glittering field of candidates.

But, in the end, he could not resist.

He believes it is very silly when people are amazed to find that military men like Lord Carver and Sir John Hackett can think.

Sir James is known as "the thinking man's sailor", a tag which makes him laugh and inspires him to quote his favourite Admiralty minute drafted in 1913: "The Fleet would hold in the utmost contempt any officers who were trained to think."

Data protection: 2

Bill is attacked from all sides

Government measures to protect the public from misuse of data held about them are being criticized for not going far enough. PETER EVANS, Home Affairs Correspondent, reports why the British Medical Association, the TUC and universities are among organizations wanting amendments to the Data Protection Bill which begins its committee stage in the Commons today.

The National Council for Civil Liberties reflects wide concern about the Bill when it says the legislation would allow transfer of data to the Inland Revenue and the police.

The council says the Bill, would permit wholesale transfer of medical data to the Special Branch without the knowledge or consent of the patient or doctor.

That is because information which a minister certifies is for national security purposes - not defined in the Bill - is excluded from it altogether.

The British Medical Association adds that it is "concerned that doctors will be unable to safeguard the confidentiality of medical records if transfer of information can be made, in secret, to computer systems where those individuals cannot check the existence of records".

The Home Office was convinced that health authorities should be registered as data users under the Bill. If that happened, the BMA says, the Bill would mean doctors could not control access to information they had taken in confidence.

It would like the Bill to contain regulations allowing the Secretary of State to direct health authorities to be data users but leaving the statutory control of medical records with the health professions.

But the TUC says a serious defect is the exclusion of manual records even though they attract most complaints - from employees about employers' references; from parents about school records; from patients about doctors' files, and from clients about social work records.

It says the Bill does not contain any provision on the Swedish model to check that police intelligence data withheld from an individual is not irrelevant or inaccurate.

The TUC recalls that Sir Norman Lindop, who chaired a Home Office committee on data protection, had criticized the provision of the Bill which allowed the security services to obtain computer records without the individuals concerned being aware of that.

The Lindop Committee wanted a Data Protection Authority with someone able to act, by having a high security clearance, as consultant to the Home Office and security services and to work out with them rules and safeguards for their system.

The TUC criticizes the Home Secretary's power to exclude by order any information from individual access.

Howevwe, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of United Kingdom Universities support the Bill's overall aims but is "greatly concerned" about its effect on examination records.

The NCCL points out that loopholes in the Bill occur because it fails to recognize that in many cases it is difficult to draw a distinction between a manual and a computerized record. The Bill's definition of data appears to exclude a printout obtained from a computerized system.

During the past two years very few word processors have been produced without "mini-computer" facilities.

The National Consumer Council doubts whether the Bill will meet its aim of conforming to the Council of Europe's Data Protection Convention.

The Bill empowers the Secretary of State to exempt from access by individuals personal data relating to health and social work. Yet the convention prohibits the automatic processing of personal data "concerning health or sexual life" without "appropriate safeguards".

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities believes that, while remedies are appropriate for individuals aggrieved about data held, the method of obtaining redress, as through the courts, could deter.

It and the Association of County Councils are pressing for codes of practice. The Confederation of British Industry, however, believes in voluntary codes.

Concluded

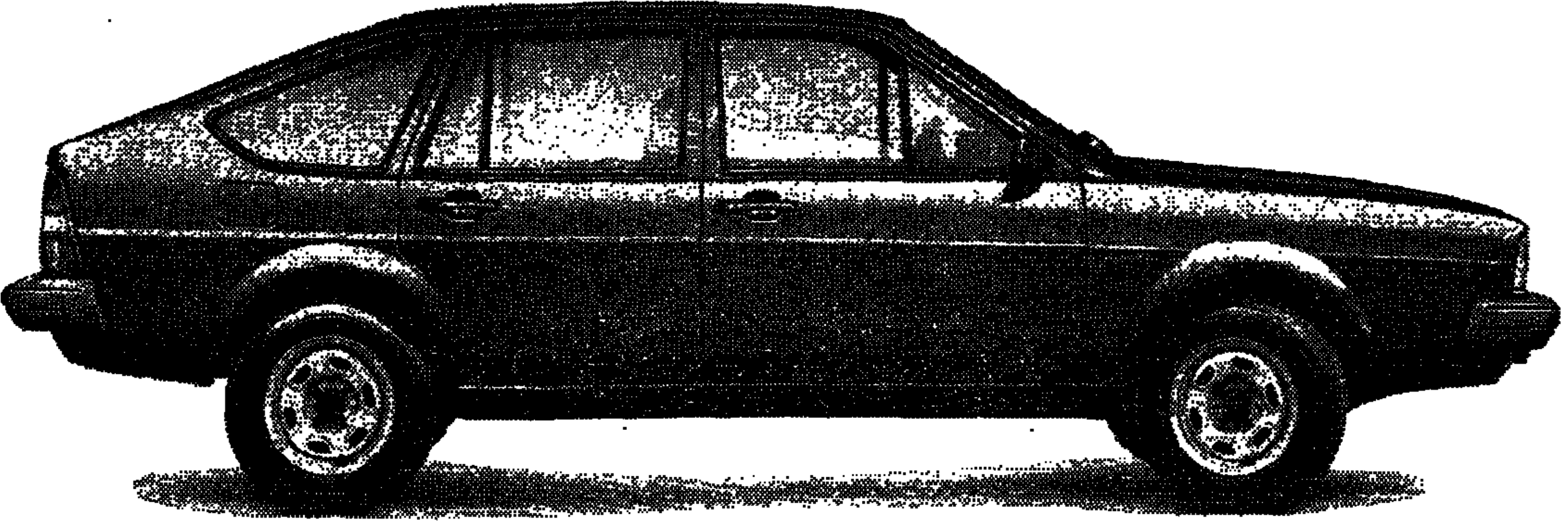
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Labour's repeal pledges mount

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Labour Party is accumulating commitments to repeal Conservative legislation at such a rate that party sources are beginning to fear that its programme may appear unrealistically heavy at the next election.

The promises, which cover Acts going back to the first year of Mrs Thatcher's first government, would take many years to fulfil and leave Labour with only limited time to bring in its own radical reforming measures, senior party figures believe.

Within a few hours last Monday, the party was committed or recommitted to a legislation which would take months to get through Parliament: repeal of legislation to cap rates, and abolish the GLC and restoration of British Aerospace to public control.

It is argued by some that at the next election such measures will inevitably take a back seat to Labour's far-reaching plans for economic recovery.

But others argue that the party must soon take stock of its position on repealing Conservative measures, in order to present a credible and manageable programme to the electorate next time. "It is getting out of hand already," one source said.

But most of Labour's repeal commitments made since 1979 stand. The 1983 manifesto refers to measures passed under the first Thatcher government. The 1983 conference updated, and strengthened, some pledges and there have been fresh ones in pronouncements since the election by party spokesmen.

Under them the next Labour government will act to sweep away Tory legislation in the following areas:

Education: It would repeal the 1979 Education Act which itself repealed the 1976 Labour Act compelling local authorities to draw up plans for comprehensive education.

Local government and housing: It would repeal "rate-capping" legislation and the abolition of the GLC. In addition it is committed to repealing parts of the present Housing and Building Control Bill and parts of the 1980 Housing Act which made council house sales compulsory.

Renationalization: The manifesto committed Labour to return to public ownership the public assets and rights hived off by the Tories, "with compensation of no more then that received when the assets were denationalized."

Nationality and immigration: Labour is committed to repealling the 1971 Immigration Act and the 1981 British Nationality Act.

Trade unions: Repeal of the Employment Acts which restrained secondary picketing and curbed abuses of the closed shop, the 1984 Trade Union Bill, which provides for ballots for the union governing bodies and pre-strike ballots, and possibly a new Bill.


The Channel 4 electronic newsroom at work (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

BBC tests ITN newsroom system

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

A novel electronic system which is now the mainstay of the newsrooms of Channel 4, TV-am and *News at Ten* is being tested by BBC radio, despite the corporation having developed its own system, installed at BBC Television Centre.

The California-based company Basys, which produces the system, is now 51 per cent owned by Independent Television News. The BBC's own design, developed with the aid of a £250,000 grant from the Department of Industry, has been the subject of industrial action by journalists seeking payment for using the equipment. It is used on BBC *Breakfast Time* and the evening news programme *60 minutes*.

In both systems, electronic terminals are linked to a central computer which stores and processes all copy coming from news agencies such as Reuters and the Press Association. The computer assists in the quick generation of scripts, running orders for programmes, Autocue and all the information now vital for running a modern radio or television newsroom.

The Italian television network RAI has just bought the ITN system. It is now used by Cable News Network in Atlanta, the 24-hour national cable news service; KRON-TV, San Francisco and Business Time Cable, New York among others.

Police chief in wrangle over Kelly inquest costs

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A clash between the Chief Constable of Merseyside, Mr Kenneth Oxford, and his police authority comes to a head tomorrow.

The authority is considering refusing to pay costs for the legal representation of four police officers at the inquest in 1980 on Mr James Kelly, who died in custody.

If the authority refuses, Mr Oxford could have to pay the bill unless the Home Office or the Police Federation negotiates a solution

The authority says Mr Oxford promised it would pay the £32,000 costs of the officers' representation without knowledge, ignoring guidelines forbidding officials to spend more than £10,000 on their own initiative.

The home office has offered to pay half, provided the authority pays the rest.

Seamen call off protest

Greenwich Health Authority will reopen the two operating theatres at the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital on February 20 which were closed last month because of a shortage of nursing staff.

Members of the National Union of Seamen at Dover and Folkestone, who have been fighting to keep open the threatened hospital said yesterday that they would stage a 24-hour strike to disrupt cross-Channel ferry services this week. But they called off a one-day strike yesterday.

Council abolition 'threat to Green Belt'

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Abolition of the Greater London Council and the six English metropolitan counties would threaten the survival of many Green Belt areas, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says.

It rejects minister's claims that abolition would make relations between people in the metropolitan areas and their local authorities simpler and more efficient.

The council's statement has reached ministers just before they issue new draft guidance to local authorities about the Green Belt and housing land. The first draft appeared last summer in two Department of the Environment papers which were withdrawn after challenges

These included the council, which feared that the guidance would make it easier for developers to build in unspoilt countryside when urban land was available.

After abolition, the supervision of Green Belt land, designed to curb urban sprawl would move from metropolitan authorities to many much smaller boroughs and districts. Some of the largest and most controversial Green Belt areas, including those round London and Birmingham, are covered by the authorities threatened

Salvador forces prove their ineptitude in fruitless surprise raid

From John Carlin, San Salvador

A surprise attack over the weekend by a "Hunter" battalion of 350 men on Jucuapa, a town controlled by guerrilla leftists in eastern El Salvador, graphically illustrates the low level of competence among Salvador Government troops and their inability to capitalize on inital successes.

There were about a dozen guerrillas in Jucuapa on Saturday afternoon when government troops firing bullets in the air appeared in the central plaza, before the usually alert guerrillas had time to grasp what was happening.

Lying on our stomachs behind a thin wooden wall within yards of the shooting, we we watched as the Hunters of *Cazadores* fired bazookas, heavy machine guns and automatic rifles at the fleeing guerrillas.

Support fire came from a helicopter above, from which, we were told later, operations were being conducted by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, the soldier American officials here most admire in the 37,000 strong Salvadorean armed forces.

When the shooting stopped we peered through a lattice and saw the plaza swarming with soldiers, six of whom were rushing to the now grounded helicopter carrying on their shoulders a companion with blood gushing from a head wound. later we saw there no dead guerrillas in the plaza, as we had expected and no evidence of any having been wounded.

The soldiers were nonetheless exuberant, hooting, swaggering and proudly exposing their



Batallon de Cazadores T-shirts like a crowd of adolescent football supporters.

Twenty minutes later, tribal dance over, the soldiers piled on to their trucks and headed after the guerrillas who fled south of Jucuapa towards their camp, a mile and a half away in dense, hilly jungle.

From very high above the helicopter carrying Colonel Monterrosa was circling and strafing the apparent guerrilla positions. But on the ground there seemed to be little firing.

Forty minutes later the army trucks rolled back into the plaza noisy youths on board.

Did they destroy the guerrilla camp? Were many guerrillas killed?

"Oh, we wounded one," said one of the Cazadores, a little shamefaced.

The trucks then headed north to the city of San Miguel, army headquarters for eastern El Salvador, the most battle-scarred part of this country

That same evening the guerrillas were back in Jucuapa, buying supplies, drinking in the plaza, as they have done every evening since they captured the town exactly four months ago.

The next day we drove south of Jucuapa and resumed a conversation with a guerrilla we had met the previous day.

Did the Army destroy their camp? Were many guerrillas killed?

"I did not see one soldier here," he grinned. "They didn't even make it to within a mile of here. Not one companero (*comrade*), he added, his captured American rifle slung over his shoulder.

Back in the town, people were talking on about the presidential elections due on March 23 and how they thought it was unlikely they would be held, with the guerrillas around.

Two years ago the balloting for constituent assembly elections passed off untroubled in Jucuapa. But since then the military situation has changed dramatically. Ragged guerrilla bands have now merged into a revolutionary army.

Know, above all, guerrilla morale is extremely, almost foolishly high, as they showed in Jucuapa where they were caught by surprise, while government troops are demoralized.

Prompted by Dr Henry Kissinger, President Reagan is proposing $312m (£225m) in military aid to El Salvador over the next two years, twice the amount he gave in the past two years.

That ought to be enough to fend off what would be an inevitable guerrilla triumph, achieved without any aid at all.

Nevertheless, the talk here in El Salvador that if he US Government wants to avoid the fall of another Central American domino, sooner or later the President will have to think seriously of sending the Marines into El Salvador.

Hungary 1: Economic reform

Painful path to prosperity

From Roger Boyes
Budapest

"People should be allowed as much private initiative as possible. If somebody wants to set up a small business, a textile factory or a grocer's shop then he should be allowed to do so, encouraged, supported. . . . Workers should be persuaded to work hard. . . . Wages should be increased only for better productivity. . . . Profits and exports, these are the priorities . . ."

This is not a page stolen from the diary of Mrs Margaret Thatcher but a compilation of recent utterances by Hungarian advisers and ministers, men who are trying to reconcile market forces with the structure of a socialist economy. In a Budapest bar, Karl Marx and Adam Smith would be able to hold an intelligent conversation. Probably both would be outraged by the liberties taken in their name.

Mrs Thatcher arrived in Budapest at a time when the Hungarian Government is trying to give another boost to economic reform.

The outward signs of success are still there: the good shoes and clothing (Pierre Cardin has a shop in the capital); the food which, though more expensive, is plentiful; Western cars a common sight on the streets; the privately-built hotels towering over the Danube on the Pest side.

The reformed agricultural system, providing for strong links between state cooperatives and private farms, is functioning smoothly, despite occasional signs of discontent from the farmers.

The private sector runs a large part of the service industry. An astounding scheme allows workers to club together and lease space in their factories during evenings to produce more goods at privately contracted prices.

All of this has gained Hungary the envy of its socialist neighbours and the applause of many in the West, who see the country as being in the grip of undercover capitalism (the argument is simple: socialism is not nice, people under socialist rule are unhappy, therefore a happy country cannot be socialist).

Both East and West are wrong. The prosperity is real, but not unbounded nor painlessly procured. Real wages have been falling, investment is stagnating, the economy is contracting and workers who do not moonlight find it difficult to make ends meet.

Hungary has to find more than $1,000m (£700m) in debt servicing this year. There is a relentless drive to increase exports, some times at the expense of the domestic market, to earn dollars.

The decentralized economy, the theoretical freedom from the tyranny of the plan, goes by the board in this situation. Trading agencies tell factories that they "expect" more goods for export and work is shifted away from the needs of the home market.

Income differentials are growing and unofficial estimates of people on the poverty line, that is, receiving less than half the averave income, amount to 1.5 million.

If the prosperity is something of a myth, so too is the imagined capitalist renaissance. A close look at government proposals for continuing economic reform in the state sector clearly shows that the authorities are not about to abandon their monopoly of power in heavy industry. The central tenet of Marxism – ownership of the means of production – is to be preserved at all costs.

There are two main points to the next stage of reform: the expansion of worker democracy and the breaking up of the huge industrial conglomerates in the state sector, with a view to making factories more profitable and more flexible. A decision on the changes is expected from the Politburo in spring.

Under the present plans, smaller factories will have worker directors elected to their boards, while larger plants will have boards composed equally of managers, citizens nominated by the state to monitor profitability and workers chosen by trade unions or directly elected by the workforce.

The second part of the latest reform is to "deconcentrate" state industsry. This should, in the view of some influential ecoomists, be carried out by managers on the spot rather than by state bureaucrats, who have too vested an interest in keeping industsry large and unwieldly, for this is their power base.

Smaller units will be able to react more quickly to shifts in demand and to increase profits.

If the authorities can overcome the innate conservatism of the state bureaucracy and the entrenched directors of the largest plants (all of whom are afraid of losing power), they will still face at least two problems.

First, the workers have to be persuaded to increase producticity without large financial incentives. It is significant that the one strike in Budapest last year was organized by lorry duivers protessting at a productivity scheme which paid them less for the same work.

Unions used their veto right – blocking management decisions without having to resort to the strike weapon – in 45 disputes in Budapest alone and most of these were wage and productivity-related issues.

The second hurdle, the banking system. If the reform is to work, banks must be allowed to declare state-run factories operating in the red as bankrupt.

Only the pressure of the market will force managers to work out ways to profitability.

The logical extension of profit-seeking, and bankruptcy for failures, is that state factories are sold into private hands. Theoritically this is possible, but to do so would be to rip into the fabric of the socialism that Hungary still espouses, Adam Smith or no Adam Smith.

Tomorrow: Social strains

Home comforts: Pleasant surroundings as Mrs Thatcher converses with a family in Szentendre, but 1.5 million Hungarians are on the poverty line.

Nicaraguan poll delay condemned by Shultz

Brasilia (NYT) – Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State said that Nicaragua's postponement of the promulgation of electoral laws because of rebel air attacks last week was a transparent device to back away from elections.

Mr Shultz's comment was the Reagan administration's first response to the Nicaraguan decision, announced on Saturday, to delay consideration of a draft of electoral legislation. The ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front cited air raids by rebel forces on Thursday and Friday in north western Nicaragua in delaying the step towards elections promised for next year.

The draft measure was to have been considered by Nicaraguas Council of State on Tuesday. Nicaraguan leaders have disclosed several provisions of their electoral plan in the last week, but have cautioned that the one factor that could disrupt the process would be continued attacks by rebel forces backed by the United States.

Mr Shultz said there was no reason to make any change in the electoral process. The postponement certainly showed that the Nicaraguans were only too ready to back off from elections.

Elections and the rule of law were key elements in a democratic society, Mr Shultz said. He made the comments in a briefing on Sunday as he flew from Rio de Janeiro to the Brazilian capital, where he was due to meet Brazilian leaders yesterday. He declined to comment on the rebel attacks themselves.

● **TEGUCIGALPA:** A US senator said on Sunday that the American military may remain in Honduras for up to five years under policies now being followed by the Reagan Administration (AP reports).

Senator James Sasser said the Unied States was planning new joint American-Honduran military exercises of which he was unaware before. He also said the United States had plans to build new military airstrips and munitions storage facilities in Honduras.

He had learnt about some of the military plans during his weekend visits to several US-Honduran military installations.

Congress may have to "force" the Reagan Administration to reveal all its plans for Honduras, the senator said.

"We want to know what is the policy of the Administration with respect to establishing a permanent presence here. What are they seeking to do? I think this building ought to be discussed in Congress and publicly in the United States."

The United States was using six airfields and two radar stations in Honduras. The senator said the new military manoeuvres would be called Granadero I and could begin in May.

Ethiopia expels US envoys

Nairobi (Reuter) – Ethiopia has expelled several diplomats from the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa, according to diplomatic sources here and in Addis Ababa.

The diplomats had left the Ethiopian capital over the past few days after being given short notice to leave the country. The exact number of diplomats involved and the reasons for their expulsion were not immediately disclosed.

One source said only two of the six fully-accredited diplomatic staff now remained at the US Embassy in Addis Ababa. The embassy has had a skeleton staff since 1980, when Washington withdrew its ambassador at Ethiopia's request.

The reported expulsion marked a new low in relations between Washington and Ethiopia, one of the Soviet Union's closest allies in the Third World.

Before the 1974 leftist revolution which averthrew Emperor Haile Selassie, the US held a predominant position in Ethiopia. Relations plummeted during the 1977-78 Ogaden war between Ethiopia and Somalia, when the US supported Somalia, switched sides and threw its support behind Ethiopia's new revolutionarty regime. Relations between the US and Ethiopia have been strained since.

Ethiopia relies on Soviet military aid to fight against secessionist Guerrillas in Eritrea and Tigray province.

South Africa mining deaths 'six times UK'

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

The death rate in South African coal mines is probably six times higher than in the United Kingdom, a British mining expert claimed here.

Dr Herbert Eisner, former director of the explosives and flame laboratory of the British Health and Safety Executive, says that while he does not believe that statistics compiled by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs are being deliberately distorted, they are based on methods of calculation no longer considered reliable by other important mining countries.

Dr Eisner has been brought to South Africa by the black National Union of Mineworkers to attend an official inquiry starting today into a methane gas explosion at the Hbobane colliery last September in which 64 mineworkers died.

The NUM is the largest black union in the mining industry and is recognized by the Chamber of Mines, the employers' body, as a wage-negotiating body although it has refused to register with the government. It is increasingly concentrating its efforts into securing the safety rights of miners.

Dr Eisner says that death rates in South African coal mines are given in terms of 1,000 workers a year which is "a method long abandoned as unrealistic elsewhere."

Soth African statistics do not distinguish between underground and surface workers and the workforce in less hazardous opencast mining is lumped together with that of conventional mining operations for statistical purposes.

More than 90 per cent of accidents in South African coal mines were officially attributed to "acts of God" while management and men were blamed for fewer than 2 per cent.

Reagan returns to his roots for 73rd birthday celebrations

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan flew to his boyhood home Dixon, Illinois, yesterday to celebrate his seventy-third birthday and to drum up support for his reelection campaingn with a few rousing remarks about how he had helped to make America great again.

It was the sort of occasion the President both loves and excells at, enabling him to portray himself as a classic example of Reaganism – the small town boy from a poor but honest family who made it all the way to the top by his own efforts.

There was a homecoming parade along Dixon's Main Street, a visit to 816 South Hennepin Street, where the President lived between the ages of eight and 12, and exhortationary talk at Dixon High School which the young Reagan attended during the 1920s, and a speech at the nearby Eureka College, the President's alma mater, from which he graduated in 1932 with a degree in economics and sociology.

Dixon is an unprepossessing Mid-Western town (population 18,200) situated amid the vast flatlands of Illinois, about 100 miles west of Chicago.

It is classic mid-America and represents in its own small way both Mr Reagan's inate optimism and his belief in the virtues of self-help, but also, with its large number of empty shops and bankrupt local hotel, the economic malaise from which America is only just beginning to emerge.

Mr Ragan's critics, with their eyes fixed firmly on the scale of the federal budget deficit, are sceptical about how durable the present economic recovery will prove to be.

But the President, who has been brimming with self-confidence since he announced he was seeking reelection a week ago, harboured no such doubts. "America," he told a crowd of 4,000 at Dixon High School, "is back on her feet and moving forward with confidence.

"Our rebirth began right here, in our homes, schools, churches and neighbourhoods . . . America has recaptured her drive, energy and determination."

Mr Reagan's journey back to his boyhood was not supposed to be part of the election campaign and was therefore paid for out public rather than party funds.

Its main purpose was to inaugurate a programme of distinguished speakers who have appeared on the cover of *Time*, as part of the weekly magazine's sixteeth anniversary celebrations. (Mr Reagan has appeared on the cover on 23 occasions).

However, Mr Reagan is too crafty a politician not to exploit the advantages of incumbency by using his speech to extol his achievements

Declaring that the post-Vietnam era of self-doubt was now over, he said that his administration had restored respect for American power throughout the world.

"We are trying to see to it that American citizens – and it doesn't matter whether they are Navy pilots in the gulf of Sidra (Sirte) or medical students in Grenada – can no longer be attacked or their lives endangered with impunity" he told the audience who packed Eureka College

Eureka College was the setting for Mr Reagan's famous arms control speech in May, 1982, which led to the strategic arms reduction talks (Start) with the Soviet Union in Geneva later that year.

Although yesterday's speech contained no reference to these talks, which were suspended by the Soviet Union at the end of last year, he reaffirmed his determination to reach agreements with Moscow on reducing the size of the two superpowers nuclear arsenals.

Mr Reagan also dwelt on his favourite theme – the need to reduce the size and cost of the central government. Big government was an obstacle to economic progress, he said. Many countries which had failed to heed the advice of Cicero, the Roman philosopher, about the need for restraint had been "brought to their knees by governments that borrowed and taxed their citizens into servitude."

Not all of his audience may have been familiar with the works of Cicero. But by the time Mr Reagan finished speaking they were well aware that the President was campaigning on his record of cutting taxes and curbing government spending.



Birthday greetings: President and Mrs Reagan are cheered by schoolchildren as they leave the White House.

Israel determined to keep out of Lebanon chaos

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government is braced for a further serious political deterioration in Lebanon, but ministers are understood to have agreed to avoid more involvement regardless ot what might happen.

According to Defence Ministry sources, a Cabinet decision to lower Israel's military profile and concentrate on bolstering security in south Lebanon was taken on Sunday.

Within hours of the session, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Labour Prime Minister, told a party meeting that the longer Israeli troops remained in Lebanon, the worst would be the effect on relations with the Shia Muslims who form the majority population in south Lebanon. He said that Shia terror attacks against targets in Israel could make those by the Palestine Liberation Organization "look like child's play".

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, indicated yesterday that Israel was now concentrating on improving security arrangements with local militias to protect its northern border. He claimed that this process, the "final stage of the war in Lebanon", would go ahead whether or not there was any understanding with the central government in Beirut.

The Prime Minister, who has now apparently ruled out a sumultaneaous Syrian withdrawal as a condition of a furhter Israeli pullbacks, has rejected a suggestion that Israeli troops in southern Lebanon should be replaced by armed UN soldiers.

Israel is now facing an average of 15 attacks a week in south Lebanon, an onslaught which is causing mounting discontent inside the Army. There is a growing belief here that there will soon be a further Israeli redeploynment south of the present front line on the Awali River despite US opposition.

Meanwhile an influential pressure group inside the Labour Party has publiched a blueprint for amending the party's interim policy towards the occupied West Bank in an effort to persuade King Husain of Jordan to join negotiations over its future status.

The plan calls for a freeze on all Jewish settlements, the replacement of the Israeli civil administration by a millitary governor assisted by Arab staff sfficers, improved welfare for the Palestinians, liberalization in economic activity with the establishment of Arab banks, and an end to Israeli censorship.

Flood disaster

Colombo (AFP) – More than 500,000 people have been left homeless by floods in the eastern, northern and north-central provinces after rains that began late last week. The rice crop was badly damaged

Zimbabwe curfew renews old fears

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

The new dusk to dawn curfew imposed over part of Matabeleland and reports of a harsh security clampdown have raised the spectre of the brutal anti-insurgency operation in the troubled west Zimbabwe province a year ago.

For the past week security force units have been streaming into Matabeleland South which came under curfew last Friday. People arriving here from the area yesterday reported that movement in the rural areas had been severely restricted and that harassment and beating of civilians had sharply increased. Journalists have been barred from the curfew area to the west and south of Bulawayo.

The curfew was announced by Mr Simbi Mubako, the new minister of Home Affairs, who said that anti-government guerrilla activity in Matabeleland was worse than it had been for several months.

The mood in the capital points to another upsurge in the two-year chain of violence which has divided Matabeleland, home of the minority Ndebele tribe, from the centre and eastern areas which make up three-quarters of Zimbabwe and are home to the Shona-speaking tribes.

A rash of government statements in the past few days have given for the first time official statistics on what has been happening in Matabeleland recently. Guerrillas are said to have killed more than 120 people in the past year, including presumably both army personnel and civilians, and committed 47 rapes, while about 450 rebels have allegedly been killed or captured.

Guerrilla targets range over a wide spectrum including white farmers but after two years the rebels show no sign of developing a populist political programme or any determination to confront the security forces

Increasingly, South Africa is accused of being behind the guerrillas, who are commonly referred to as "Super-Zapu". The new terminology distances them from Mr Joshua Nkomo's opposition Zapu party – which was previously accused of sponsoring the insurgency – by acknowledging that they are a breakaway group, and maintains that Pretoria is controlling them.

Given South Africa's propensity for backing guerrilla movements in neighbouring states which it regards as hostile, such as Mozambique and Angola, that is plausible, but independent observers believe that Pretoria's role in Matabeleland is being exaggerated.

The slaughter by the notorious Fifth Brigade of Ndebele peasants a year ago stored up a reservoir of hatred which sustains the rebels. There is widespread fear in Matabeleland that the latest crackdown might trigger furthr massacres

Eyewitness claims that the Fifth Brigade has been deployed in the new curfew area are discounted by informed sources who day that confusion has arisen over the scarlet berets worn by the North-Korean trained unit and similar ones worn by the Parachute Battalion.

Nevertheless there have been ominous soundings inthe semi-official local press. *The Herald* commented last week: "When bandits were on the rampage in the same areas in 1982 the Government unleashed 5 Brigade, a move which earned widespread condemnation of sections of the world press. But it worked. The bandits were routed."

The editorial said: "A return by the Army in force would be welcomed by the masses and that restoring peace was more important than risking dents in Zimbabwe's image." It concluded: "The troops must go in – no holds barred."

Argentina bars exit of human rights suspects

From Douglas Tweedale
Buenos Aires

Former military chiefs suspected of committing human rights violations in Argentina will be prevented from leaving the country while the Government determines whether there are any outstanding requests for their appearance in court.

The Interior Ministry has instructed officials at airports and border posts to check with the judiciary and other government agencies before allowing any of the dozens of military officers under suspicion to leave the country.

It was originally reported that the Government had issued an outright ban on leaving the country against Captain Alfredo Astiz, known here as the "Archangel" for his suspected role in the kidnapping and disappearance of two French nuns and a 17-year-old Swedish girl in the mid-1970s.

But an Interior Ministry official said yesterday that the decree was only "a precautionary measure" and that it applied to "a long list" of other officers as well as Captain Astiz.

The official said the measure was taken in response to a request from a special presidential commission investigating the fate of thousands of Argentines who disappeared after being arrested or kidnapped under the military regime which stepped down last December.

The commission asked President Alfonsin to take whatever measures were necessary to prevent officers leaving the country. It said the testimony of officers, including Captain Astiz, could be invaluable in clearing up the disappearances.



Captain Astiz: Suspected role in kidnapping

In a separate development, a national deputy here has said that it cost Argentina between $5bn and $7bn (£3.5bn and £5bn) to fight the 10-week Falklands war against Britain in 1982.

Señor Ruben Rabanal, a deputy for the governing Radical Party was quoted as saying in Madrid that the cost of the war was a primary case of Argentina's economic crisis, along with other examples of exhorbitant spending by the military regime.

He did not give any details about how he had arrived at the figure for the costs of the conflict or about the breakdown of the costs.

Israel flop and Kiessling scandal may lead to Kohl's political demise

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

These are difficult times for Chancellor Kohl. Not only has his decision to keep Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, in office been scathingly condemned and led to more strains in the coalition Gavernment, but doubts about his leadership are also being voiced abroad.

His visit to Israel has been described as a flop, and President Mitterrand is said to be bitterly disappointed in him. By overruling advice from many people in his own party that Herr Wörner should resign over the Kiessling affair, Herr Kohl has exposed himself to charges that he acted for short-term political motives and damaged the authority of his Government.

His evident desire to avoid a Cabinet reshuffle which could open the way to Bonn for his old rival, Herr Franz Josef Strauss, has led to the brink of an open split with the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union.

Herr Kohl will tell the Bundestag tomorrow his reasons for rehabilitating General Günter Kiessling while retaining the minister who tried to sack him. But the Social Democrats are unlikely to be appeased. Herr Horst Ehmke has compared the retention of Herr Wörner to the post-war denazification programme – the small fry was called to account and the big fish escaped.

Accusations – hotly denied



Herr Kohl: Misgivings at home and abroad.

by the Government – that the Military Intelligence Service was ordered to tap General Kiessling's telephone calls from the Munich hospital, where he has been recovering, will fuel the controversy, and Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, opposition leader, has insisted that the parliamentary inquiry into the affair continue.

Some commentators have suggested the scandal could mark the beginning of the end for Kerr Kohl. Even the conservative *Die Welt*, normally a staunch Government supporter, saw the retention of Herr Wörner as the lesser evel – but still an evil.

The "village circus" atmosphere in Bonn is seen as damaging at home and abroad, and Herr Kohl's election appeals for a moral and spiritual renewal are said to look hypocritical now. Sources in his party, which has distanced itself from his decision, are suggesting that he may one day be replaced by Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the able Minister of Finance.

Herr Kohl, whose foremost political quality is his unflappable calm and strong nerves, appears unruffled by the rough press treatment he has received.

Herr Kohl takes comfort instead from opinion polls which show his standing among the electorate still to be high. However, he must have been disappointed by the meagre results of his recent foreign policy initiatives, especially his cherished visit to Israel which was seen as little short of disastrous, both in Israel and at home.

Mr Ben Nathan, the first Israeli Ambassador to Bonn, said his whole performance went down badly and left a bitter after taste. His "ruthless statements" – that arms export policies were made in Bonn and not in Jerusalem – gave an impression he was talking to Arabs, not Israelis.

Der Spiegel, citing a confidential German memorandum from Paris, said last week that even President Mitterrand has criticized Herr Kohl's lack of leadership at European summit meetings. The Chancellor can ill afford any open differences with France, with whom he hopes to revitalize the European Community.

VW baby points road ahead

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

Volkswagen, West Germany's largest car maker, has lifted the security curtain which normally protects secret prototypes to show an eyecatching baby car called Student.

It is 1.5ft shorter than its present smallest model, the Polo, will seat four, has a top speed of 102 mph and will average 56 miles per gallon.

The occasion was the opening of a new research centre built at a cost of £19m in Wolfsburg, West Germany. VW executives insisted that Student was a research project only, and there were no plans to put it into production. However they admitted that some of the innovations would almost certainly be seen on next generation VW cars.

Class of 84: Student prototype on display in Wolfsburg

Nearly 650 highly qualified staff are employed in the new centre on pure research alone. A staggering 10,000 work on research and development work combined, with an annual budget of £360m.

The cost of keepin up in the car world is one of the biggest problems facing Jaguar, Austin-Rover and Land-Rover, as they prepare for privatization.

BL Technology, the research and development company serving all three, employs only 800 in all and is believed to have a budget of less than £60m a year.

But at the end of this year, state aid for BL comes to an end, leaving prospetive new owners with the need to raise huge sums to develop next generation cars.

A senior VW research executive told me: "Without access to one of the major international car groups, BL is in danger of falling behind. I suspect that Honda is going to fill this role with increasing effect as the two companies develop their existing joint manufacturing deals for new cars. We at Wolfsburg have the utmost respect for Honda's engineering expertise."

Nuclear date for South Africa

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

Koeberg, South Africa's only nuclear power staon, is to become operational in March, and the first of its two 920 megawatt reactor units will be connected to the national electricity grid in April. It should be generating full power by the middle of July, it had been announced here.

Fuel loading of the second unit is scheduled to begin in September. It should start providing power to the grid in December When both units are in full operation Koeberg will represent just under 10 per cent of South Africa's electric generating capacity.

Most of the past year, according to Mr D W Steyn, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, has been taken up with repair, retesting and inspection of the Koeberg plant after it was damaged in December, 1932, by Limpet mines placed by saboteurs.

The African National Congress, an outlawed anti-apartheid organization in South Africa, claimed responsibility for the sabotage. The perpetrators were never caught.

The plant lies on the coast about 20 miles north of Cape Town, and has been the subject of controversy both as an alleged environmental threat and because of its possible vulnerability to attacks by ANC guerrillas. Security is very tight.

The Government justifies siting the plant so close to Cape Town on the ground that it was the only spot offering sufficient geological stability. The plant, which is the pressurized water type, is built on shock-absorbent piers and is capable, it is claimed, of surviving without mishap and earthquake with a rating of seven on the Richter scale.

The plant was designed by the American firm of Westinghouse, and built under licence by a French consortium. South Africa has the world's third biggest deposits of natural uranium, but up to now has had to have the ore enriched abroad for use as a reactor fuel.

Genscher paves way for summit

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, held important consultations with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, last night as part of the run-up to next month's citical EEC summit in Brussels.

The recent Franco-German summit and the latest French ideas for finding a compromise solution to Europe's budgetary worries, were expected to dominate the talks over dinner at Sir Geoffrey's official country residence at Chevening, Kent.

All foreign ministers of the Ten will meet in Paris in about 10 days and then again soon after in Brussels, as France desperately tries to avoid a diplomatic failure during its six-month presidency of the Council of Ministers.

To return home from the Brussels summit in mid-March without a solution would throw everything on to the next June gathering of prime ministers in Bordeaux before France hands over the presidency of the near-bankrupt Community to the Irish Republic.

Cheysson's trip fails to set date for Chad talks

Paris (AP, Reuter) – The three-nation African trip by M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, has failed to produce a new date for reconciliation talks between warring factions in Chad, French officials said.

M Cheysson returned on Sunday night after a four-day trip to Chad, Ethiopia and Libya in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the latest round of Chad's 19-year civil war.

France has sent 12 helicopter gunships to Chad in the past few days to reinforce French troops supporting President Habré's forces, French newspapers reported.

US in grip of Arctic weather

Washington (AFP) – At least 27 people died in snowstorms and Arctic conditions which hit Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Iowa at the weekend. Six members of one family froze to death in their car, trapped in a snow drift in Minnesota. Four other people died in similar conditions in North Dakota.

In north and central Iowa snow ploughs gave up trying to clear the roads because visibility was so bad. Winds were gusting at more than 60 mph with temperatures dropping to −50°C.

Jailed Solidarity activist 'critical'

Warsaw (Reuter) – Mr Janusz Palubicki, a jailed Solidarity activist, is in a critical condition after being on hunger strike against prison conditions for almost eight weeks, opposition sources said.

Mr Palubicki, a university teacher who was a leader of the banned union in Pznan, western Poland, was moved to the hospital wing of Wroclaw prison on Saturday, the sources said.

Hunt warning

Peking – The Chinese Communist Party has issued a stern warning against the hunting of endangered species of wildlife, including the panda, Chinese gibbon, red-capped crane and others. Rare species widely regarded as medically beneficial or especially nourishing, and birds and animals officially protected by law are still being eaten or shipped to Hongkong.

Mystery solved

Tokyo (AFP) – Wreckage found in jungle near the Thai-Burmese border late last year is the aircraft in which General Senriki Shimoda, the Japanese officer in charge of the infamous railway built by Allied prisoners-of-war during the Second World War was killed in January, 1943, Japanese officials have confirmed.

Chile clash

Santiago (AFP) – Hundreds of left-wing opponents of the Chilean military regime clashed with police at the end of a three-day conference of the People's Democratic Movement (MDP), which agreed to call for unity with the centrist Democratic Alliance (AD).

Duke hurt

Pamplona (Reuter) – The cousin of King Juan Carlos of Spain, Don Alfonso de Borbón, Duke of Cadiz, and his two sons were seriously injured near here when the car driven by the Duke colided with a lorry.

Iraq threat

Manama (AFP) – Iraq repeated its threat to bomb selected targets in 11 Iranian cities from today, in retaliation for Iranian artillery attacks.

هكذا من الأصل

Moscow anxious to halt speculation after Ustinov trip cancellation

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Informed sources in Moscow claimed yesterday that Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Defence Minister, was suffering from influenza and that there was no cause for alarm over the Soviet leadership.

On Saturday Marshal Ustinov cancelled a visit to India due to Begin yesterday. Delhi was told the the Defence Minister, who is 75, had "domestic preoccupations".

The sudden cancellation set off a wave of speculation about the Kremlin power struggle. Despite his advanced age Marshal Ustinov usually appears in vigorous health, and is considered the strong man of the Andropov leadership.

President Andropov himself has not made a public appearance since August, when he seemed mentally alert but physically frail. He was taken to hospital in December but is reported to be back at his suburban dacha, although not working full-time.

Sources said Mr Andropov could be expected to make a speech to his Moscow constituents on the eve of the Supreme Soviet elections on March 4. Western diplomats said they knew or no scheduled engagements which would require the Soviet leaders presence before then.

Although Moscow is currently in the grip of an influenza epidemic, the cancellation of Marshal Ustinov's visit to India appeared hurried, suggesting some dramatic turn of events in the kremlin which required his intervention. The visit has been built up by the Soviet Media as important event.

Officials have repeatedly assured diplomats and correspondents both privately and publicly that the Soviet leader would reappear shortly. He has kidney and heart diseases and requires daily dialysis treatment.

As the Supreme Soviet election campaign gathers pace Mr Mikhial Gorbachov is emerging as Mr Andropov's chosen successor should the President die or retire. Mr Gorbachov, who is only 53, is the Politburo's agriculture expert but also has responsibility for party personnel – a key power base – as well as some industrial matters.

He masterminded the internal party elections which ended last month with the replacement of more than 20 per cent of the Obkom (provincial level) party secretaries. Although some say Mr Andropov and Mr Gorbachov were aiminmg at a higher turnover, the new men are all in their forties or fifties, and many will also serve on the central committee.

● DELHI: There is real disappointment among Indian officials at the cancellation of the visit Murshal Ustinov was to have met Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

India needs the friendship of Russia to counteract America's support for Pakistan and the uncomfortable proximity of the Chinese. Russia is glad to have the political support of India, the only country of any size and influence not have condemned the four-year old occupation of Afghanistan.

The Indians have stepped well away from their previous dependence on Russian weapons, buying Jaguar fighters and Sea King helicopters and looking to the Mirage 2000 to counteract the threat from F16 fighters supplied by the US to Pakistan.

The Russians, however, have recently made a startling counter offer, suggesting that India buy the MiG29 which is so new that it has only just begun to be deployed with the Soviet Air Force, and certainly has not yet been offered to any of the Russian satellite states. Indian Air Force test pilots are leaving for Russia to fly and evaulate the new planes.

The Indians are also preparing to buy the Soviet IL76 transport plane instead of the American C176. The Russians are willing to take payment in rupees.



The law looks on: A British lorry leaving Le Havre harbour under police surveillance after crossing from Britain in the face of the French farmers' blockade of Channel ports.

Farmers occupy ports to block British

Le Havre (AFP) – More than 1,000 farmers yesterday carried out a threat to blockade all British lorries carrying beef or lamb arriving at Boulogne, Calais, Cherbourg and Le Havre.

The farmers, who are backed up by their trade unions, are protesting at a drop in meat prices for which they partly blame British imports.

About 800 farmers occupied the quayside and buildings at Boulogne while 40 at Calais, 300 at Cherbourg and 200 at Le Havre stationed themselves at the exits used by vehicles.

It was reported that more than 20 British and French lorries arriving here from Portsmouth and Southampton in three car ferries – Leopard (French), Viking Valiant (British) and Stena-Salior (Irish) – were checked by farmers but allowed to proceed as they were not carrying meat.

Most drivers cooperated with the farmers, but one with a load of hides refused to do so and sped off. He was not chased by the farmers, who seemed anxious not to start any incident which would cause the police to intervene.

British lamb and beef lorries appear to have been warned in advance.

UN wants quicker response on violations

From Alan McGregor Geneva

A new warning system on human rights violations was proposed yesterday by Herr Kurt Herndl, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, in opening the six-week annual session of the 43-nation Human Rights Commission.

The United Nations must be enabled, he said, to act immediately in response even to threatened violations. Herr Herndl, an Austrian, who is head of the Human Rights Centre, also suggested the designation of regional advisers available to governments for consultations on drafting legislation and implementing existing human rights procedure.

The commission elected Mr Peter Kooijmans from The Netherlands as chairman for the session, with Mr Todor Viechev (Bulgaria) Señor Roberto Bianchi (Argentina) and Mr Ghaleb Barakat (Jordan) as vice-chairmen The head of the British delegation, Sir Anthony Williams, was ambassador in Buenos Aires until diplomatic relations were severed two years ago

Because the former Argentine military regime destroyed files relating to the torture and murder of "disappeared persons", the new Government has asked the UN Human Rights Centre for access to the mass of information it has collected on events since the 1976 coup

Japan's peace plea to superpowers

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japan's Prime Minister, yesterday called upon the United States and the Soviet Union "promptly to negotiate reductions in their nuclear arms, and ultimately eliminate all such arms".

Speaking at the opening of the first session of the Diet since his Government was narrowly reelected in December, Mr Nakasone said that only a country like Japan, without nuclear weapons and with a moderate and exclusively defensive capability, could argue persuasively for peace and disarmament.

His Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, however, laid the blame for the breakdown of arms control negotiations on Russia in strong terms.

"I hope very strongly that the Soviet Union will return to the table and negotiate seriously," Mr Abe said, criticizing the recent build-up of Soviet military forces in the Far East.

Mr Nakasone, said that it was necessary for Japan to establish the "minimum high-quality defence force" and maintain the effective and smooth operation of security arrangements with the United States. He was "even more aware than ever of the enormity of international expectations of Japan as our status within the international community has improved".

The Prime Minister outlined proposals for administrative and fiscal reform.

He said he would strive "strenuously to maintain the free trade system in the face of a rising international tide of protectionism". All due efforts would be made to promote deregulation of Japan's financial efforts and capital markets, the yen's internationalization and international cooperations for currency exchange stability.

Danish tax fraud MP back in jail

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

After a two-week delay caused by a muddle over postal votes, the Folketing reconvened yesterday following the January election in Denmark and promptly expelled Mr Mogens Glistrup, the anti-tax campaigner as unworthy of holding a parliamentary seat.

Mr Glistrup, aged 57, the colourful leader of the Progress Party, will now return to the prison near Elsinore where he began serving a three-and-a-half year sentence for gross tax fraud last August, having lost a nine-year legal battle.

The controversial tax lawyer, who regained his old North Copenhagen seat in the recent election, becoming the first Dane to be elected an MP while in jail, was released after his reelection almost a month ago.

Parliament expelled him for the second time by 140 votes to 17.

Mr Glistrup's period of freedom had been extended by an unprecented recount of 119,000 postal ballot votes in last month's poll, which was ordered after the discovery in the recount, they were not sufficient to change the original result of the election, which gave the 17-month-old, four-party Conservative-Liberal coalition of Mr Poul Schulter, the Prime Minister, and its supporters 90 seats, a narrow absolute majority in the 179-seat legislature.

The recount delayed Parliament from reassembling as a properly constituted body until two weeks after its official opening, an event unique in Danish history.

Yesterday's session ended with the Government presenting its revised 1984 austerity Finance Bill, which cuts the budget deficit for the first time in a decade.

Dry desert

Kuwait (AP) – The Kuwaiti authorities have crushed and buried in the sand bottles of whisky and beer worth about $5m (£3.5m) which had been confiscated from smugglers at Kuwait airport and border posts over the past six months.

Pass blocked

Vienna. – The Brenner Pass between Austria and Italy was blocked yesterday by hundreds of Italian lorry drivers protesting at increased tariffs and delays of up to 15 hours at the Austrian frontier.

Prisoners of conscience



Gabon: Jérôme Nguimbi

By Caroline Moorehead

Jérôme Nguimbi, a former member of the National Assembly, is serving a 15-year sentence of hard labour for suspected involvement with a banned opposition political group called Morena – the Movement for National Recovery – which has been extremely critical of Government policy. Mr Nguimbi, aged 44, has 15 children.

After independence from France in 1960, Gabon enjoyed a brief period of democratic government before President Mba eliminated all opposition to his Bloc Démocratique Gabonais (BDG). When, in 1968, President Bongo replaced the BDG with the Parti Démocratique Gabonais (PDG), he decreed that formation or membership of alternative political parties was illegal.

Observers who attended Mr Nguimbi's trial, which took place in Libreville's Court of State Security in November, 1982, believe it to have been legally invalid. No evidence was brought to prove that he had been connected with Morena and he was neither allowed to consult a lawyer before the trial, nor to appoint his own.

Mr Nguimbi, who is one of more than 100 people arrested on suspicion of being associated with Morena, is now being held at the Gros Bouquet prison in Libreville, notorious for its use of torture.



Mr Nguimbi: Trial said to be legally invalid.

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Svengali to Saint Laurent

Pierre Bergé has been the partner, mentor, business brain and confidant of Yves Saint Laurent for 22 years. "He has given me the possibility to create", says Yves. Yves Saint Laurent dominated the Paris couture season just as his brooding portrait by Andy Warhol dominates Bergés study. Saint Laurent's strengths are his perfection of cut and detail, his absolute authority of taste and his totally modern idiom.

"For Yves, fashion is quite simply art," says Pierre Bergé, who was representing the artist Bernard Buffet when they first met. I see no difference between Balenciaga and Braque or between Saint Laurent and Picasso. All artists share exactly the same problems, preoccupations, the same talent and the same kind of intelligence. It may be more important to create *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon* than to make a jump suit, but the act of creation is the same."

It is no secret that the process of creation is an agonising one for the intense introspective and reclusive Saint Laurent. Other designers whose businesses are conspicuously less well managed (and those who see the autocratic side of the elegant Monsieur Bergé) suggest that Saint Laurent plays Trilby to his Svengali. Bergé would not agree with that definition of their roles.

"I never interfere in his domain of creation and he never enters my world of business," he says. "We are not alike as people. He is introspective and solitary. I like people. I enjoy travelling and he loathes it. I like cooking and fine wine, and he isn't interested at all. But we do share the same judgements, the same aesthetic taste in objects and the same belief in the importance of creativity."

They also share a flat in Paris filled with fine canvasses, a house in Morocco where they have escaped this week, and a country house near Deauville in which Saint Laurent's passion for Proust is played out by naming each bedroom after a Proustian character. Bergé's own private passion is helicopters – both models and flying machines; he seems as proud of his pilot's licence as he is of the YSL retrospective currently at New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Today, the catalogue of that exhibition is published as a book with a plethora of plates in colour and black and white* They give to those who have never seen a Saint Laurent collection an insight into his fashion ethos: that cut is everything, that fine fabrics should be treated with respect, that simplicity is the greatest sophistication of all. As he once said to me: "All a woman needs to be well-dressed is a trench coat, a sweater and pants."

In his new collection that means a milk-white ottoman silk trench (now three-quarter length), black crepe pants (cut wider and shorter) and a sweater embroidered into an argyll pattern with jet beads. Such understanding of modern style, perceived in the most refined and luxurious way, is worthy of Chanel, who now has a new designer – Karl Lagerfeld – to interpret the name.

In Paris couture, Saint Laurent and Chanel are playing out a fashion duel which resumes in the spring when Karl Lagerfeld brings out a ready-to-wear collection for the first time under his own label.

The new names of creative design in French fashion often come from abroad – a fact that Bergé understands as President of the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture. Now ha has been charged from on high ("this comes from the Elysée itself") to set up an institute of creativity to promote design in France. Saint Laurent couture remains to Yves, the fount of creativity, says Bergé. But the couture house does not make money: it is effectively subsidised by the Rive Gauche boutiques, he perfumes, make-up and accessories.

What of the future? "I believe that our role is to continue to create, to put our name only on things that are creative," says Bergé. "It is difficult to talk of the future when it all depends on the fate of one man, and everybody knows that Yves does not enjoy good health, that he is tired – tired of life. I have stategy. I am open to everything."

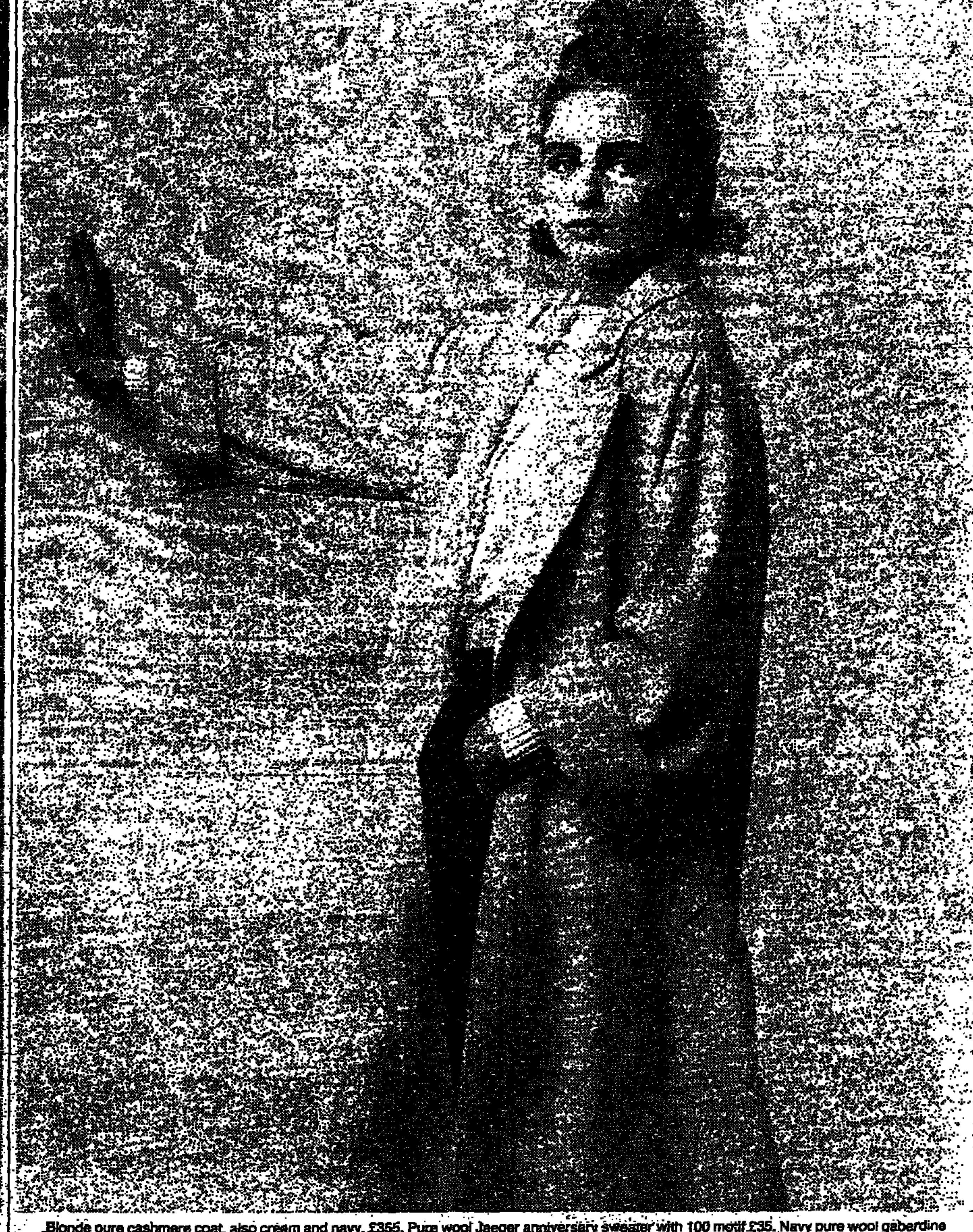
Saint Laurent's mighty fashion empire is admired and envied by other designers, who sigh into their silks that what they need to achieve lift-off is "a Bergé."

Pierre Bergé's face cracked into a grim smile at this accolade. He will not admit that any single designer in Paris ("except perhaps for Madame Grès, she has real talent") is worthy of a fashion empire. He doubts too if there is much untapped talent in London (where he flew over last week just to look at a Titian in the Venice exhibition). "Of course these designers are quite wrong when they say that they need me," says Bergé. "What they really need is to be a Saint Laurent."

**Yves Saint Laurent, published by Thames and Hudson at £20.*



Pierre Bergé and Warhol's portrait of Yves Saint Laurent: "We are not alike as people." Photograph by HARRY KERR



Blonde pure cashmere coat, also cream and navy, £355. Pure wool Jaeger anniversary sweater with 100 motif £35. Navy pure wool gaberdine trousers, also cream, £59. All from all branches of Jaeger. Pearl and gilt necklaces and earrings from Chanel, 26 Old Bond Street, W1. Make-up by CHERYL for REVLON using their Blonde cosmetic collection with delicate face colour, Champagne Blonde face gleamer, pale Honey Blonde lipstick and the accent on the eyes using duo eye colour. HAIR by SHAUN at Daniel Galvin. Photograph by ROBERT MACKINTOSH

One hundred years of animal magic

The Times, Saturday October 4 1884.
From a Correspondent

"A new gospel has reached us from Germany which promises the physical regeneration of mankind, if we will but adopt a comparatively speaking, simple reform in our system of clothing.

It is a medical theory, based on the close observation of animal life, demonstrated by scientific experiments and proved by pracital experience.

The doctrine starts with the fundamental principle that, being animals, we should wear animal clothing. The absorption by vegetable life of poisonous emanations from animal life is a process not limited, it would appear, to living plants, but continued by vegetable fibre such as cotton, linen etc with the difference that, while the living plant asimilates these emanations the dead fibre cannot do so but exhales them again when wetted or warmed . . . On the other hand animal material such as wool, is made by nature to protect animal life, and will not prevent but assist the evaporation of the emanations coming from the body . . . From these facts, Dr Gustav Jaeger, Profesor of Zoology and physiology at Stuttgart, deduces his medical theory which has won innumarable disciples in an incredibly short time. . . .

What is now known as Dr Jaeger's sanitary woollen clothing . . . consists, for men, of tight-fitting stockingette undergarments made of pure undyed wool, fastened over the shoulder and of double thickness over the breast. The coat or jacket is double-breasted, buttoned well up to the throat, contains no lining or padding unless of pure wool, and is either undyed or treated only with uninjurious fast dyes.

The same rule applies to the trousers . . . Inside the sleeves and the trouser legs there is a contrivance which, fastening tight round the limb prevents up-draughts. The feet are clad in pure woollen socks with divisions for each toe, while the upper part of the boot is made of felt, the lower part of felt or porous leather. The substitution of a collar made of unstarched white cashmere is the most conspicuous feature in the dress. The cashmere collar is a useful preventative against throat disorders.

Needless to say, all these precautions taken during the day must be continued at night. The bed must also be free from vegetable fibre.

In reward for this great change in the mode of living the action of the skin is so stimulated that the noxious principles, the "bad humours" our forefathers so often spoke about, are soon given off and evaporated. According to Dr Jaeger . . . we may not hope to realize complete immunity from illness, though we may secure health equal to that of domestic animals. While we live within four walls we can never attain to the degree of health of sheep, birds and wild animals."

Return of quality and quiet good taste

Like our monarchy, Jaeger has a German ancestry but seems to represent the best of British style. It stands for quality, quiet good taste and a sense of continuity – all virtues which are currently back in fashion.

The early history of Dr Gustav Jaeger's "sanitary woollens" was unorthodox. Enthusiasts like the aesthetic Oscar Wilde, and the intellectual George Bernard Shaw, both wore eccentric brown wool suits. (Shaw was described as looking like a garden gnome.)

The feature in *The Times* of 1884 shows the interest aroused by the persuasive theory of the Stuttgart professor. His revolutionary ideas seem rather akin to the current cult of healthy living, back-to-nature and fashion based on natural fibres.

The most interesting thing about Jaeger's history is that it continued to prosper once the animal magic had faded. It is a long way from the back of a two-humped Bactrian camel or the underbelly of a Mongolian mountain goat to the wardrobes of sophisticated society. The transformation of the health cult clothes into high fashion happened in the 1930s, when the town suit, the tailored coat and Schiaparelli's "shocking" pink alarmed established customer – until the young Duchess of York (now our Queen Mother) set a royal seal of approval on the new image. Maurice Gilbert left the flourishing Selfridges store to make Jaeger a retail force.

Now Jaeger, under its umbrella company Coats Paton, is very big business, with 60 shops in Britain, a turnover of almost £70m and a large overseas representation which has brought export sales up to 35 per cent.

This current success is a reward for virtue. The company came through the mini era without abandoning the principles (or the camel coats) on which its earlier success was based. "We had then a reputation of being dull", says Peter Chalcraft, the present merchandise director, who admits that the so-called swinging sixties were a difficult time.

The architect of the fresher current collections, carefully co-ordinated and with a subtle sense of changing fashion rhythms, is chief designer David Watts, who has been with the company for 27 years and who was awarded an M.B.E. in last summer's Birthday Honours for services to export. He now has three assistants working with him to produce the co-ordinated separates, knitwear and the expanding after six range. He remembers when he had just left the Royal College of Art and the young designer who shared the Jaeger studio was called Jean Muir.

"The whole thing of the sixties worked against us, because we weren't making Mickey Mouse T-shirts and rich hippie clothes", says David Watts. "But fashion has turned our way again: people are fed up with junk, with badly made clothes and fashion extremes."

Since this is a birthday celebration, I chose to photograph the most covetable pure cashmere coat (it has to be stroked to be appreciated) from the current collection. It is cut, says David Watts, like a shirt, unstructured, with a soft shoulder line, and relies on the superb cloth for its impact. Moving upmarket on buying cloth has been a deliberate policy, says Peter Chalcraft, and has been the basis of their present success in the United States. A nicely timed expansion in Jaeger's native Germany is planned for this anniversary year.

One of Dr Jaeger's more alarming theories, is that you should take a bath in your woollies, leaving the moisture to evaporate naturally as animals do. That is a luxury that I would leave to the cashmere goats in their mountain streams.



THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The addition of a skater from the Virgin Islands has brought to 49 the number of nations at tomorrow's opening ceremony in Sarajevo. **John Hennessy** previews the fortnight's events

Showdown on White Mountain

MEN'S ALPINE SKIING

All the world loves the hero of '76

All nationalistic feelings will be set aside, or almost all, when Franz Klammer leaps out of the men's downhill start gate on Mount Bjelasnica (White Mountain) on Thursday. Not for many years has a man known greater universal adulation. Does it, one wonders, originate from his epic victory over Bernhard Russi, of Switzerland, at Innsbruck in 1976, or from his courage in facing a constant reminder in a wheelchair of the horrifying accident suffered by a younger brother, or from the aura of bonhomie that he radiates? It is hard to say, but outside his beloved Austria he is at least everyone's second favourite, behind perhaps a choice nearer home.

Sentiment apart, his resounding victory in the famous Hahnenkamm at Kitzbühel last month shows that he still retains his powers and his thirst for battle. His principal challengers for the gold medal probably lie among a number of Swiss, together with Steve Podborski, an intrepid Canadian who signalled a return to form with a recent win at Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Podborski was second over the Bjelasnica track in a World Cup competition last year, one place ahead of Klammer.

Since Ingemar Stenmark (Sweden) is ruled out on grounds of professionalism, the two slaloms seem wide open. A blinding sequence this season of first, second, first by Marc Girardelli ought to instal him as a firm favourite, but he too must stay at home. For his own good reasons, he has opted to ski in Luxembourg colours instead of those of his native Austria, but under Olympic rules flags of convenience are not allowed. Austria, in an understandable fit of pique, chose to pass him by.

With Phil Mahre, winner of the World Cup these last three years, struggling to find his touch, like his twin brother Steve, almost any winner in the first group of the slaloms is possible. Pirmin Zurbriggen (Switzerland) now has the best credentials for the giant slalom and Franz Gruber for the special. But Bojan Krizaj is a good enough skier to pull off either for Yugoslavia and have them dancing in the streets.

Martin Bell, in the downhill, represents Britain's best prospect in all Alpine events, albeit at a modest level.

● Downhill: Thursday, February 9 (televised live on BBC 1, 10.55 am – noon). Giant slalom: Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16. Slalom: Friday 17.

DOWNHILL

FRANZ KLAMMER Austria. Age 30. Five times World Cup downhill title-holder.

PETER MUELLER Switzerland. Age 26.

STEVE PODBORSKI Canada. Age 26.

URS RAEBER Switzerland. Age 25.

ERWIN RESCH Austria. Age 22.

SLALOM

FRANZ GRUBER Austria. Age 24.

BOJAN KRISAJ Yugoslavia. Age 27.

PHIL MAHRE US. Age 27. Silver in 1980.

PIRMIN ZURBRIGGEN Switzerland. 21.



BRITAIN'S TORVILL AND DEAN: A private ambition and a national longing.

MEN'S FIGURE SKATING

Hamilton under attack

Scott Hamilton shares with Torvill and Dean the distinction of leading the parade of the ice skaters with three world titles, since he rose to the top with them in 1981. He has not been able to dominate his discipline in quite the way the British couple have, for strong opposition has been mounted in Europe as well as on his own doorstep.

The attack is triple-pronged, from three men of vastly different approaches to ice skating. Alexander Fadeyev (Soviet Union) is the new European champion, like Hamilton something of a jumping machine, with a triple axel in combination, if you please. Rudi Cerne (West Germany) is the artist among modern men skaters, combining something of the lyric flow of John Curry with enough acrobatics to satisfy most tastes. Norbert Schramm, also of West Germany, is the flashy extrovert, but his skating at Budapest was marred by a crash and a triple lutz failure.

For Paul Robinson, of Blackpool, who has yet to win the British championship, Sarajevo represents a voyage of discovery more than anything else.

● Monday, February 13 (compulsory figures); Tuesday, February 14 (short programme); Thursday, February 16 (free skating).



SCOTT HAMILTON: Three times the world champion





ALEXANDER FADEYEV Euro champion.

RUDI CERNE West Germany. The skater's skater.

WOMEN'S FIGURE SKATING

Sumners in the clear

The hope among the women skaters is that the standard will rise above the weak offering in the European championships in Budapest. In these circumstances, the way seems clear for Rosalynn Sumners to repeat her world championship victory for the United States in Helsinki last year.

Judging by Budapest, the only threat would seem to come from her compatriots Tiffany Chin, aged 16 and weighing 5st, and Elaine Zayak, the 1982 champion, who was forced to withdraw from Helsinki in a flood of tears because of injury. Miss Zayak's strength is her superlative jumping, but a new rule to curb triples might almost have been designed with her specifically in mind.

Katerina Witt, 18, of East Germany, might have been expected by now to have matured into a skater of outstanding quality, but as is the way with young women she has suffered a decline in her athletic powers emerging from adolescence, without a compensatory increase in choreographic appeal.

Susan Jackson, of Nottingham, is the new British champion, still adjusting to a removal to Richmond for training purposes.

● Wednesday, February 15 (compulsory figures); Thursday, February 16 (short programme); Saturday, February 18 (free skating).



ROSALYNN SUMNERS: Crowned at Helsinki last year



ELAINE ZAYAK US, 1982 world champion.

KATARINA WITT East Germany. Age 18.

WOMEN'S ALPINE SKIING

Versatile Epple hopes for a treble

The women Alpine skiers, as usual, reveal a wider degree of versatility than their menfolk, having resisted to a greater extent the regrettable demarcation line between downhill and slalom. Hanni Wenzel, of Liechtenstein, won two gold medals and a silver at Lake Placid in 1980 to emulate the coup of Rosi Mittermaier, of West Germany, four years earlier, but she is another who bears the taint of professionalism.

Irene Epple, of West Germany, may now be the one to follow in a distinguished line. She began the season with the exciting victory at Val d'Isère and, if she has not been able quite to maintain that momentum, she has done enough in all three disciplines to encourage the possibility of three medals, of whatever hue. She might then come to be known in Britain as a woman of substance in her own right rather than as a former girl friend of Sebastian Coe (a former former girlfriend, the après-ski whisper now goes).

The downhill favourite will probably be Maria Walliser (Switzerland), not only because of her consistent running but also because she too knows the women's Olympic course on Mount Jahorina. Miss Walliser, whose physical attractions ought to be enough for the purpose, has another endearingly playful quality, for she is apt to roll on her back in an apparently uncontrollable display of exuberance. Pure coincidence, of course, that the soles of her skis, prominently bearing the makers' name are thus placed in full view of the television camera.

In the slalom events another Swiss, Erika Hess, will be expected to lead the way, challenged by two Americans, Tamara McKinney, winner of the overall World Cup last year, and Christin Cooper, and by the Polish twins Dorota and Malgorzata Tlalka, agreeable counterparts to the masculine Mahres. Miss Epple's best chance is in the giant slalom, but she is no fool in the shorter race.

Lesley Beck and Clare Booth will be making what can only be, alas, token appearances for Britain.

● Downhill: Saturday, February 11. Giant slalom: Monday 13 and Tuesday 14. Slalom: Friday 17.

DOWNHILL

IRENE EPPLE West Germany. Age 26. Silver in giant slalom at Lake Placid.

ARIANE EHRAT Switzerland. Age 22.

MICHELA FIGINI Switzerland. Age 17.

MARIA WALLISER Switzerland. Age 20.

GERRY SORENSEN Canada. Age 25.

SLALOM

CHRISTIN COOPER US. Age 24.

ERIKA HESS Switzerland. Age 21.

TAMARA McKINNEY US. Age 21.

MARIA ROSA QUARIO Italy. Age 22.

ICE DANCING

Sweethearts on parade

According to our Sports Editor, there was not a dry eye in the country during last year's world ice dance championship in Helsinki, as those skating sweethearts of the nation, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, walked the tightrope of "Barnum" to their third title.

Can they do it once more, to satisfy a national longing as well as a private ambition? The recent European championships suggest they can, and should, for they comprehensively beat last year's runner-up, Natalya Bestemianova, a Russian fireball, supported by Andrei Bukin. Here was a minor setback in one of the compulsories, and a more serious one in the original set pattern paso doble that defied belief when two judges placed them second on a technicality. One would have thought the British pasa doble was at least 0.5 better than any other in the competition. Nine firsts, however, in the free dance put aside all doubt.

Yet this was not the best performance they have given, since Dean, under heavy pressure perhaps from the risk he was taking with a single rhythm, to Ravel's "Bolero", was visibly ill at ease. Now, with the worry of "Boleros"'s acceptability out of the way, we might hope that Sarajevo will inspire him to his brilliant best.

In the ordinary way Judy Blumberg and Michel Seibert, the American champions, would have hoped to make an advance from third place in the world championships last year, but they have a mountain to climb. Seibert has been struck down this winter with glandular fever and, for all that they recorded sixes in their national championships a week ago, it is hard to believe that he will be strong enough for such a demanding test.

There will be changes of nationality in the judging panel compared with Budapest, of course, with notably the United States and Canada represented, two countries with a strong competitive interest who have shown an independence of mind and who might not be expected slavishly to follow the European example. Torvill and Dean may have to win them over on their own outstanding merits if they should happen to lose support elsewhere.

● Friday, February 10 (compulsory dances); Sunday, February 12 (original set pattern); Tuesday, February 14 (free dance).

PAIRS SKATING

ELENA VALOVA/OLEG VASILIEV: Russia's world and European champions

Having dislodged the holders of the world pairs championship last year and repeated the medicine in the European championships last month, Elena Valova and Oleg Vasiliev look set for the gold medals at Sarajevo. In Budapest, though, the Russians seemed a less exciting prospect and one would not want too readily to dismiss the chance of the Canadians, Barbara Underhill and Paul Martina. Susan Garland and Ian Jenkins skate for Britain, with a place in the top 10 as a realistic aim.

● Friday, February 10 (short programme); Sunday, February 12 (free skating).

ICE HOCKEY

Looking for a miracle

When the fresh-faced college boys representing the USA beat the Soviet Union 4-3 in the last Olympics – in the wake of the Afghanistan invasion and the seizure of the American hostages in Iran – the whole nation celebrated the return of its lost pride (Robert Pryce writes). ABC made a film of the triumph which they called *Miracle on Ice.*

In 1980 the Soviets might - as Herb Brooks, the remote and fearsome American coach, was saying - have been ripe for the taking, but the current team wears a leaner look. The new generation of players – the majestic Fetisov, the clever Larionov, the predatory Krutov – are more aggressive, especially in their opponent's end.

The veteran of the team will be Vladislav Tretiak, the netminder who, at the age of 31, will be competing in his fourth Olympics. He conceded only four goals in seven games as the Soviet Union won a fifth consecutive world championship last year, and will be attempting to erase the humiliating memory of Lake Placid.

If the USA, without Brooks and with an even younger team than 1980, win the gold medal this time, ABC will have to find a word to exceed "miracle".

● Final: Sunday, February 19.

SPEED SKATING

We shall probably look in vain for another Eric Heiden in the speed skating events. Heiden's five gold medals at Lake Placid seem safe for the time being, if not for eternity. Times recorded in the Soviet Union this season suggest that Andrei Bobrov and Konstantin Korotkov might get among the medals, but those in the know favour the prospects of Rolf Falk-Larssen (Norway), Tomas Gustavsson (Sweden) and Gaetan Boucher (Canada) among the men, and a group of East Germans including Andrea Schöne among the women. Bryan Carbis, competing at the three longer distances, was the only British skater to survive a punishing qualifying standard.

● February 9-18.

NORDIC SKIING

Koch plans revenge



MATTI NIKAENEN: Finland's World Cup Star is aged 20

An American winner of an Olympic Nordic gold medal is the unlikely prospect held out by Bill Koch, a cross-country skier from Eugene, Oregon. From a bronze medal in the 1976 Winter Olympics he has gone on to win the World Cup in 1982 and was deprived of the same distinction last year only by a defeat in the last race. This was hardly a disgrace, since he missed most of November, an important training period, because of a virus.

For the biathlon, cross-country skiing is allied to shooting in the manner of a hunter or a border patrol, and a pounding heart has led to many faster runners forfeiting their positions on the rifle range. Frank Ullrich, who carried East Germany to the fore in this branch of Nordic sport with a gold medal in 1980, is still regarded as the man to beat.

For a young man of only 20, Matti Nikaenen, of Finland, has already established an awesome reputation in ski jumping. In successive seasons he won a junior world championship, a senior title and, last year, the World Cup. He has been prominent again this season, though two East Germans, Weissflog and Ostvald, threaten to bar his way.

Britain has seven men in the biathlon, six men and six women in the cross-country.

● Ski jumping: Sunday, February 12 (70m); Saturday, February 18 (90m). Other events February 9-19.

BOBSLEIGH

Technology in control

Next week marks the twentieth anniversary of British bobsleighing's most memorable triumph, when Tony Nash and Robin Dixon won the 1964 Olympic Games two-man event at Innsbruck (Chris Moore writes). It was the first time the nation which invented the sport had struck gold in Olympic competition. Sadly, it may also prove to be the last.

Not long ago, certainly when Nash and Dixon were competing, bobbing was about man's courage and his ability to drive and read the ice. Nine times out of ten, the best driver won. Just as important, the majority still adhered to the old Olympic maxim that competing was more important than winning.

Modern technology has caught up with bobbing in the same way that it became the crucial factor in Formula One motor racing.

"You simply can't expect to compete against the sort of equipment the Russians and East Germans have developed," say Mo Hammond, manager of the British team, which is sponsored by Peter Stuyvesant.

"The Russians only came into the sport three years ago, and there's no way their drivers are any better than ours. But their new sledge is unquestionably faster and that, combined with the fact all their crews are hand-picked athletes who have been training virtually full-time with the sole intention of winning the gold medal, is why they are such a force to be reckoned with."

A place in the top 10 finishers is the best Britain can realistically hope for in Sarajevo, with the RAF's Tom De La Hunty looking our best bet in the two-man competition. Selection for the four-man event has proved a complicated process, still unresolved despite a race-off in St Moritz three weeks ago. British champion John Deere missed out there, but forced his way back into the reckoning with the highest finish in last weekend's European championship in Igls.

● Two-man: February 10 and 11. Four-man: February 17 and 18. Toboggan: February 9 to 12.

A Manglo-Saxon gazetteer

however . . . Russell Davies

Following yesterday's controversial ruling from the EEC Harmonization Committee, Britain has been ordered to export 3 per cent of its place names to the Continent. The United Kingdom, says the committee's report, has exercised a monopolistic control over this commodity for some centuries, having nationalized materials and installations originally supplied by Continental and Scandinavian sources.

"Unfortunately, there is no appeal against this decision", Rodney Stoke-Tukeley MP, Britain's Junior Trade Minister with responsibility for harmonization, admitted last night. "And we do not expect to persuade the inhabitants of, say, Mulhouse to change the name of their town to Mousehole. The best we can hope for is to adapt the product somewhat – to package it more attractively for the Continental market. For example, they use a lot of abstract nouns over there, both the Latins and the Teutons. In fact, our nearest neighbours are a bit short of interesting nouns. We feel there's a market here that can be exploited. Our names have a concreteness they find hard to match.

Challenged to name examples of exportable nomenclature, Mr Stoke-Tukeley revealed that some names have already been distributed to European outlets pending a gala launch. "These are our pioneering Euro-nouns," said Mr Stoke-Tukeley, whose own name is not thought to be readily marketable. "They are fresh, they are adaptable, and I believe they will catch on with the professional lexicographer and the ordinary word-user alike. And don't forget, they are all British." The list is as follows:

Le Wantage (Fr): shortfall, margin of error. Hence (fig) desire, longing.
Der Cirencester (Ger): one who stops an alarm sounding; a killjoy, a wet duvet.
Le Torquay (Fr): Hungarian-style sweet wine imported from the English Riviera.
Il Truro (It): Etruscan tourist.
Das Inverness (Ger): the state of being upside down; fuddlement, liability to fall over.
Le Swanage (Fr): the number of matches supplied in each box; hence, an approximate estimate.
I Pwllheli (It pl): ill-fitting false teeth (onomat).
Un Lossiemouth (It): one who suffers from *i pwllheli.*
Les Beccles (Fr): children's plastic spectacles of a comic design, made in Hongkong.
Das Cardiff (Ger): the feeling of driving a right-hand drive vehicle for the first time.
Das Andover (Ger): (*telev*) signal given by producer, location manager etc, instructing presenter to "go back to studio"; any frantic or unavailing gesture.
Le Crediton (Fr): overdraft (expressed in hundred-franc units).
Le, il, der Tenby (Fr, It, Ger): decimal point.
Le Bacup (Fr): support, aid, supplementary forces.
Der Doncaster (Ger): member of university appointments board or selection committee.
Le Chorley (Fr): circus clown specializing in clean jokes as in *un propre Chorley.*
La Bala (It): (*footb*) long, high centre in general direction of centre forward: hence, English tactics in general.
Der Foulness (Ger): French food.
Le Dungeness (Fr): German food.
Le, der Nuneaton (Fr, Ger): English food.
Le Ribble (Fr): (*theatre*) reluctant applause; a Continental audience.
Le Glamis (Fr): the indefinable fascination of the Royal Family; star quality; (vulg) money.
Das Tring (Ger): children's toy or working model with one important bit missing (from Old Eng Tri-ang).
Una Ballymena (It): an extremely short and insignificant dancer; an understudy.
Le Lundy (Fr): long weekend, extra day off, truancy.
Der Bedwellty (Ger): incontinent patient.
Les Mumbles (Fr): a group of English visitors saying good-bye.

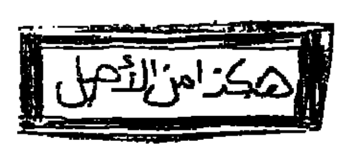
Miles Kington will resume his Moreover column next Monday.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 261)

ACROSS
1 Commotion (6)
5 Friday food (4)
8 Urbane (5)
9 Common version (7)
11 Debilitate (8)
13 Threesome (4)
15 Final irritation (4,5)
18 Obscene (4)
19 Individual character (8)
22 Open air cinema (5,2)
23 Japanese fencing (5)
24 Castrate (4)
25 Cease (6)

DOWN
2 Tsar's edict (5)
3 Pastry dish (3)
4 Chorea (2,6,5)
5 Sheep pen (4)
6 Common town bird (7)
7 Awry (5)
10 Thames island (4)
12 Undershirt (4)
14 Herring measure (4)
15 Few-storied block (3,4)
16 Walk heavily (4)
17 Church council (5)
20 Less apparent (5)
21 Notice (4)
23 Slumber (3)

SOLUTION TO No 260
ACROSS: 1 Star of David 9 Anodyne 10 Apple 11 Day 13 Bath 16 Bond 17 Unless 18 Tomb 20 Test 21 Milieu 22 Ulna 23 Grow 25 Deb 28 Chela 29 Exotica 30 Queen street
DOWN: 2 Tribut 3 Rays 4 Fled 5 Away 6 Implore 7 Rabbit punch 8 Ready to wear 12 Austin 14 Hub 15 Sluice 19 Manteau 20 Tug 24 Rhine 25 Dare 26 Bets 27 Boar



THE TIMES DIARY

Directional pointers

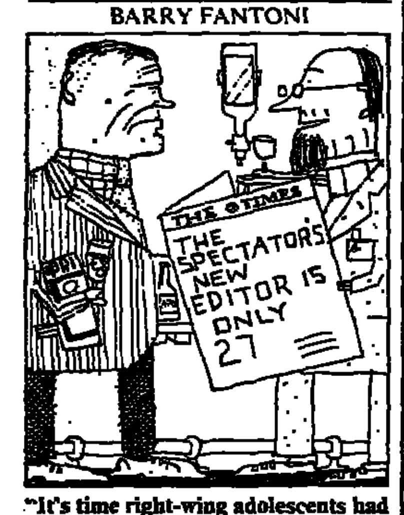
Bets are being placed in knowledgeable circles on who will inherit the director-general's throne at the Institute of Directors when the present incumbent, the pugnacious Walter Goldsmith, ends his five-year term in June. The institute's top brass are cagey but rumour has named the likely runners for the prestigious and highly-paid position: they include Jock (now Lord) Bruce-Gardyne, former MP and *Times* columnist, and Sir Afred Sherman, former communist soldier in the Spanish Civil War and quondam adviser to Number 10 who, until recently, was a member of the institute's shadowy ginger group, the Argonauts.

The smart money, though, is being placed on Sir John Hoskyns, the star of the IOD's 1983 annual lecture, one-time computer businessman and full-time scourge of the Civil Service. Yet it may be worth noting that Sir Alfred Sherman is scheduled to give this year's IOD lecture. Will he make as big a splash as did his former Think Tank colleague Sir John? "It won't be as contentious but I hope it will be controversial," said Sir Alfred modestly. "There's no point in speaking unless it is."

The set jet

A new dimension appeared yesterday in the home video market – commercials. Video Arts, the award-winning producer of films used by 26,000 British organizations, including the government, has just released its first video for public sale. For £5.99 the buyer gets a three-hour blank cassette: blank, that is, save for a half-hour plug on behalf of British Airways' new upmarket Sovereign holiday packages. "You can record over the top of it," a Video Arts spokesman said reassuringly.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's time right-wing adolescents had a magazine of their own"

Star quality

Queen Mary College, London, was endowed with a somewhat ethereal character in this august organ yesterday when a classified advertisement sought applications for research fellowships in the Theoretical Astrology Unit. I understand the typesetter was a Virgo.

Good mixer

A new cocktail bar in Ilford, Essex, has as one of its attractions an "excuse booth" from where the wayward drinker can telephone home to make his (or indeed her) apologies to the accompaniment of a taped background effect to authenticate the excuse. The 15 backgrounds range from that old stand-by the office to a traffic jam or even an insurrection. Better than the handkerchief over the mouthpiece and false accent, but I'm not convinced the service is a good enough excuse for spending an evening in Ilford.

Missing the bus

Joan Bakewell, the moving spirit of SLAP, the Society of London Arts Publicists, has failed to find a programme on BBC television for her platform. Her much publicized candidacy for the editorship of *Omnibus*, Auntie's arts showcase, has come to naught. An internal selection board chose instead Ian Squires, acting editor for the last *Omnibus* series, who so far has had little chance to make an impression since he inherited from his predecessor a batch of completed films and a sadly depleted budget.

● **A member of the PHS appreciation society from Exeter reports that, with an average quarterly telephone bill of £20, he was recently invited by British Telecom to pay his account by regular instalments – the monthly amount suggested being £428.50.**

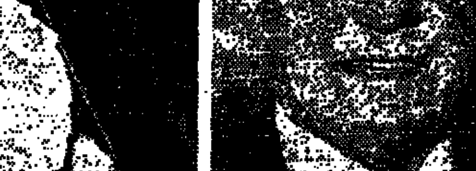
Rhapsody in blue

The Sloanes' own dance band, The Dark Blues, were doing their best in the small hours this morning to take the Prime Minister's mind off the GCHQ–Geoffrey Howe imbroglio and other irritations. Performing at the true blue Winter Ball, held in the Grosvenor House Hotel, The Dark Blues were celebrating their twenty-first anniversary and Mrs Thatcher presented them with the framed copy of their first booking in 1963. In return, the band gave her copy number 1,000 of their limited edition first album, entitled – appropriately enough after 21 years – *Overdue*. Formed at Oxford University, The Dark Blues (Nigel Tully, Tom Wilkinson, Martin Cohen, Martin Roke and David Brown) have played at most of Britain's stately homes and at royal occasions such as the Queen's silver wedding party and Princess Anne's wedding ball. Oh, happy band.

PHS

Bernard Levin: the way we live now





Redgrave, Sutch and Boaks: in the firing line of a conspiracy against free speech

Let the fringe have its fling

It is a truth not sufficiently appreciated that any political proposal which commends itself to both front benches of the House of Commons is at best useless and at worst against the public interest; one which also appeals to both main parties' back benches is likely to be a constitutional outrage and certain to be seriously damaging to the people's liberty, prosperity or both.

Such is the proposed Representation of the People Bill, of which it can be safely said that the matter of improving the people's representation never so much as entered the heads of the Conservative and Labour politicans who took part in the discussions that led to the Government's White Paper, their sole concern being to reinforce and extend their monopoly of power, or, to put it in plain English, to get more of their bread into more of our gravy; it's God's mercy that they didn't include a provision to double their own salaries and link their pensions to an automatic annual increase of four times the rate of inflation, and they will probably try to shove that bit in on the Report stage if we don't watch out, or even if we do.

In case there is any monoglot Kalmuck newly arrived among us this morning who does not understand what I am talking about, I had better make clear that it is not the extension of the franchise to those on holiday: what makes me think more kindly of Guy Fawkes, Oliver Cromwell and the German pilot who scored a direct hit on the House of Commons during the Blitz is the proposed intention to raise the electoral deposit to a thousand pounds. (The original plan had been to make it *two* thousand pounds, but they magnanimously changed their minds in the course of the discussions. *Ah, messieurs, quelle délicatesse!*)

The arguments with which this shameful measure has been supported are impudent even beyond the calls of self-interest. First, it is said that when the deposit was instituted (in 1918) the value of money was much greater, so that in equivalent terms £150 should today be even more than £1,000. Oh yes? And what, pray, was the standard percentage of income-tax at that time? And what were average rates? And where was VAT? And how many more of the imposts, mulctings, duties, levies, tariffs, licences, exactions, fees, dues, tolls, assessments, excises, *gabelles* and capitations now laid upon our backs then existed? And how many small parties or unmoneyed Independents were interested in contesting elections then? And when is the cost of a dog-licence going to be raised, in line with the rate of inflation, for the first time since *it* was instituted, in 1878? (When dog-owners cease to have votes, that's when.)

Second, it is claimed that the cost to the state of a candidature at a parliamentary election is much higher than £150, so that candidates with no hope of election are being subsidized. So they are; so are the candidates *with* hope of election, and they are quite determined to keep things that way, for the only substantial state-paid election cost that can be attributed to individual candidates is the free mailing to all voters which every candidate is entitle to claim, and this does not in practice benefit "fringe" candidates at all, since very few of them can afford the printing of the leaflets which the free postal service would *distribute*, and even fewer have the manpower to address and fill the envelopes. In other words, the argument against subsidizing candidates does *not* apply to the new proposal's victims, but it does apply to the instigators; the cost of the free mailing for the Conservative and Labour parties in a general election (reckoning it as second-class post) is roughly £10m.

Next, it is contended that the proliferation of eccentric candidates tends to bring the election process into disrepute, a charge which, when I first read it, had the unprecedented effect of rendering me incapable of speech for nearly half an hour; beside the Hattersleys and Healeys, the Proctors and Dickenses, Screaming Lord Sutch was a model of dignity and political uprightness, and a bloody sight funnier into the bargain.

But all that is only by way of refutation of the false claims made on behalf of the new Bill. Much more important is the fact that it will damage democracy, which is no doubt why the Home Office is in favour of it, the attitude of the present Home Secretary to democracy being the same as that of a Victorian maiden aunt to masturbation – he has no idea what it is and would not dream of asking, but is convinced that it makes you go blind. Cannot the two main parties lift their eyes for a moment over the rim of the trough and see how important to the vigour and health of our politiacl life is a constant ebb and flow of people and groups who refuse allegiance to the established parties, and how essential it is that such people and groups shall have *full* access to the political system in all its forms, most particularly in its electoral aspect?

If we are going to deny to the Communist Party and the National Front, the SWP and Vanessa's Loonies, the Ecology Party and Commander Bill Boaks, the genuine (as opposed to purely theoretical) right to put up as full a slate of candidates as they wish and can afford, and if we are going to go even further and deny that right to all but a rich handful of the brave and splendid men and women who stand as genuine Independents, unattached even to the smallest and weirdest of the political *groupuscules*, then we might as well deny them free speech as well, together with the right to publish their views and to solicit support for them. (I wouldn't be in the least surprised to learn that a discussion paper enshrining just such proposals is circulating in the Home Office at this very moment.)

If economic monopolies, whether of capital or labour, are inimical to economic advance, how much more are political monopolies to political progress! Just imagine a political Britain in which the Conservative and Labour parties have their way, and extinguish altogether every rival variety of political appeal, starting with the Alliance, against whom, of course, this measure is chiefly directed. Both parties are at present ossified and bureaucratic to an extent which renders them largely indistinguishable from whichever prehistoric monster it was that took 20 minutes to register, with its brain the fact that a rival had bitten its tail off; give them another inch of exclusive political rights and they will take another dozen miles of arrogance, chicanery and selfishness.

No doubt the Labour Party will assert that it is not responsible for a government Bill, and – since the contents of it were decided by a Select Committee, not a Speaker's Conference – they are not committed to it. They may even, to keep up a show, attack the clause which gives an absentee vote to those British citizens living abroad. It will all be wool-pulling; this measure is the fruit of a corrupt bargain between Conservatives and Labour, and I do not think the adjective is too strong. All the main provisions of the Bill were agreed by the Select Committee; the fact is that in return for Labour support over the holiday franchise (believed by psephologists to favour the Tories) the Goverment has offered the lowering of the deposit-losing share of the vote from one-eighth to one-twentieth, thus sparing the Labour Party such hideous and damaging humiliations as their 119 lost deposits of 1983, for under the proposed new rule they would have lost fewer than a dozen. (It is, I may add, particularly dishonest of Labour to sell itself in this fashion, for the original deposit was brought in to limit the chances of the nascent Labour Party, as the present change is designed to hinder the Alliance.)

When this matter was discussed, last week, on Sir Robin Day's *Question Time*, before a studio audience, Dr Rhodes Boyson, for the Tories, put forward the argument that the Bill was to be commended because it would discourage "extremist parties". It is a measure of the political vanity which grips the two main parties that even a normally merry and realistic fellow like Dr Boyson can thus render himself incapable of noticing that an extremist party, while it remains within the law, has as much right to propagate its doctrines as he has. And that "incapable of noticing" is the literal truth; so imbued are both main parties with the belief that they are entitled to *all* the political power and patronage and pelf that our system offers them, which is no little, that they have no idea how monstrous, and how dangerous, is their determination to change the law to ensure that not even the smallest challenge to their monopoly may be mounted except on crippling financial terms.

It is worth recording the fact that when Sir Robin put the question to the audience, a great majority – at least two to one – were against the proposal. But implacably opposed as the established politicians are to sharing power with their less official rivals, they are a hundred times more adamant that they will never share it with the people.

Robin Cook

What price loyalty in this market?

It is a fine irony that GCHQ Cheltenham should find itself in the frontline of resistance to the steady erosion of our civil liberties by a centralizing government increasingly impatient of dissent. Here we have an institution which listens in, not just to Russians and Albanians, but also to the international communications of its fellow citizens, sifting through myriad innocent conversations in search of a hint of subversion. Here, of all places, we find the rallying point for the defence of a fundamental freedom and discover libertarian groups such as the National Council for Civil Liberties already enlisted under its standard.

But the situation abounds with ironies. The work at Cheltenham, we are told, is essential to our national security and the defence of our freedoms. In the next breath we are also told that the workforce can do the job only if it surrenders its share in a part of those freedoms. It is imperative that this workforce is loyal to the state: but the Government has sought to ensure its loyalty by a measure which might have been calculated to incite disaffection.

The manner in which the Government has promoted GCHQ into this uncomfortable prominence is deeply revealing about the present administration's judgment of values. Several thousand citizens are to be forced to surrender their civil and legal rights to free associaltion.

It is presumed that their acquiescence will be secured by a single payment of £1,000. The glimpse which this base offer provides into the undoubted faith of this government in the cash nexus is chilling. The nation is but a grocer's shop in which even our *liberties* have their price.

Then there is the total incomprehension with which Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Thatcher have responded to the explosion of rage among the staff at the implicit criticism of their loyalty or reliability. Here is a workforce which plainly shares the government's perception of its job as vital to national security and which takes pride in competently executing it through the most advanced electronic technology.

Yet the Cabinet appears incapable of recognizing such professional pride, far less of using it to foster willing dedication. The grocer's mark-up does not contain any allowance for professional commitment. How can job satisfaction or professional ethics be entered in the balance sheet when they are incapable of monetary expression?

In this respect, what is happening at Cheltenham is repeated across the country as the ruthless promotion of economic individualism and market priorities by Thatcherism collides with professional ethics. The conflict was inevitable, as the very existence of a profession implies a collective discipline and most public sector manpower has to function as part of a collective team – be it in electronic eavesdropping or the provision of health care.

The other weekend, in an unusual role reversal, I went along to a demonstration addressed by my wife, whom I have not known make a public speech since we were at university together. We gathered, stamping our feet in the frozen snow, to mark a "non-open day" of a day centre for the elderly which was completed and furnished last June and at once mothballed as a result of the July expenditure cuts. Through the windows we could see the pristine cleanliness and the furniture stacked with the delivery tags still dangling from them.

My wife was speaking because she is a consultant at the local hospital. For the first time in her career she was driven to addressing an audience other than medical students by the contradiction between her professional obligations to her patients and the effect on them of policy decisions. It is a tension which many of her profession are now encountering.

On the same weekend a university professor warned of an educational Dark Age if universities are obliged to travel further down the road of relying on the market to finance them, or if research is to be dependent on private contract. He was not an arts professor specializing in some recherché area of learning, but the head of department of building science – a subject of demonstrable utility, even under the present government, which has not quite eliminated the requirement for a contruction industry.

There is a thread joining the professor with my wife and the incensed analysts of Cheltenham. It is a thread spun through antipathy to a government that does not understand any professional motivation which does not spring from financial reward and does not respect any skill or service which cannot be hawked in the market place.

And when it has established the brave new Thatcherite Utopia in which we each behave as individual economic units in competition against one another, it will have destroyed more than the collective ethos necessary to sustain free access to health care on the basis of need, or equal access to education on the basis of ability. It will also have sapped all those other sources of professional commitment, such as the desire to heal, or to treasure knowledge – and also that loyalty to his country which has given the analyst at GCHQ pride in believing that he contributes to its security.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Roger Scruton

The front line starts here

I wonder how many readers of *The Times* share my astonishment at the recent criticism (if so mild a word suffices to describe the excited baying of hostile politicians) of Sir Geoffrey Howe for having "concealed" the "fourth option" proposed to the Civil Service workers at the Cheltenham intelligence centre.

Suppose a doctor were to answer an anxious inquiry from a patient in these terms: "There are three possibilities: you may recover immediately; it may take a little while; or you may suffer a permanent disability." Did the doctor "conceal" a fourth possibility, which only a tactless fool would wish to make explicit – that the patient might die? Or did he simply fail to mention it? And why mention what both parties know – the event which, if it occurs, will sever their relations for ever?

Suppose an employer offers an employee new terms of work. He may say: "There are three possibilities. Either you can stay in a union and work elsewhere; you can take another position; or you can remain in your present post, leaving the union, and accepting compensation." Has he "concealed" that fourth alternative, which only a tactless fool would wish to make explicit – that the employment might come to an end? Or did he simply fail to mention it?

The analogy is of course imperfect. The modern contract of employment is not always ended by dismissal, but may merely be breached. The employee's rights then become a claim for compensation. Perhaps Sir Geoffrey did not sufficiently remind himself of this fact. But why all the fuss? After all, he is only the Foreign Secretary, not God. And the principle remains. A worker who will not comply with the only conditions upon which work can continue to be offered must be dismissed.

The relation which used to be known to the law as that of master and servant, but which is now known as that of employer and employee, acquired its present legal character partly as a result of socialist ways of thinking, which stressed the element of unfreedom in the position of the worker, whose life depends upon his job. It is alien to the socialist mentality to believe that even a private employer has the right to employ someone on his own terms; still less can the state have such a right.

There is much in the socialist view of human relations and of the state that is persuasive and good. But we must remind ourselves of a fact that it frequently overlooks. The state exists first and foremost to protect its citizens. It has no duty greater than that of defence, and for a government to elevate any single duty above that of defence is treasonable: at such a point all legitimacy expires.

In the conditions of modern warfare, effective defence depends upon effective and closely guarded intelligence. Whatever threatens the collecting and safeguarding of military intelligence threatens the life of the nation more directly and more direly than any local restriction of civil rights. If the Government has good reasons to believe that union activity will threaten intelligence operations, therefore, it is not merely permissible, but obligatory, to curtail trade union rights. This is as much an obligation as it is an obligation to ensure that the army shall not be subject to any command other than that of the sovereign.

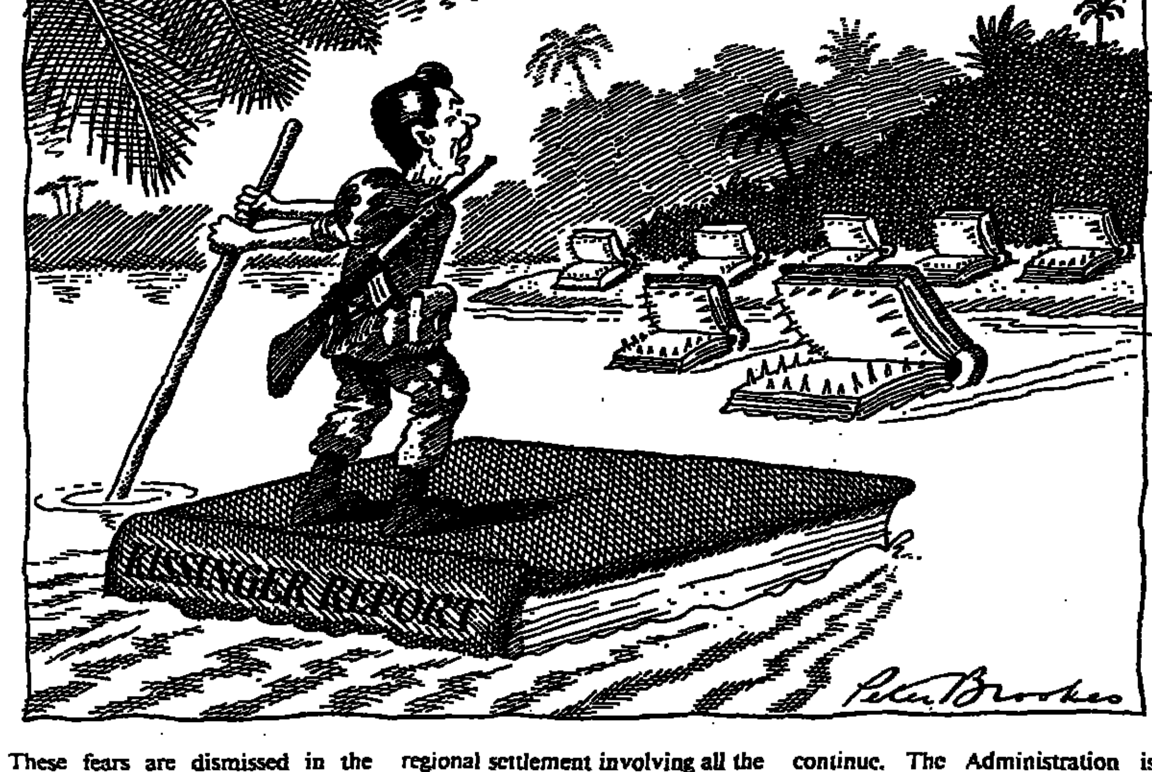
Perhaps there was a time when it could be assumed that no one would ever have to choose between his union and his country. But, if it ever existed, that time has passed. Almost all our present military resources are directed towards countering the threat posed by the Soviet Union. And unceasingly, implacably, non-negotiably, the Soviet Union devotes its energies and resources to undermining our capacity to counter that threat. It lends support to "peace movements" everywhere (except in the territories that it already controls); it works assiduously to win the western labour movements to its side; and it seeks to turn every decent socialist feeling and ideal to its own advantage by encouraging a "socialist" interpretation of events, according to which western disarmament and Soviet power are both in the long-term interests of "the people" everywhere.

The "peace and disarmament" theme has therefore been made a central issue by the Soviet Union in discussions with the hundreds of trade union delegations which have visited the USSR since the beginnings of détente. In this and many other ways, Moscow has been working to manoeuvre the trade union movement in the West into a position strategically favourable to Soviet power. It is no doubt with considerable gratification that it contemplates the present state of affairs. It is now true that no trade union national centre within the Nato area – with the sole exception of the French *Force Ouvrière* – expresses support for Nato's accepted defence policies.

The Government must inevitably respond to the dangers inherent in this situation; not to do so is to fail in its principal duty. It can offer employment at Cheltenham only on terms dictated by military necessity. And military necessity may very well require not a "no strike" agreement but the total removal of trade union authority from Cheltenham.

Colin Harding examines some alternatives to the Kissinger report

Reagan, off course in a sea of words



The paper war over Central America is intensifying. Even as Dr Henry Kissinger was marshalling the forces of his bipartisan commission in Washington earlier this month, the Pergamon Press was rushing out a volume of critical essays in conjunction with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The Labour Party has also fired a broadside of its own.

Taken together, these two volumes constitute a comprehensive critique of current US policies towards the region with a series of recommendations for how they should be modified. The Labour Party document, *Kissinger's Kingdom*, is, as the title suggests, explicitly billed as a counter to the Kissinger report. It is an often impassioned polemic against US policy towards El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras, prepared by two Labour MPs after a seven-day visit to the region in December.

The Pergamon/Carnegie volume 1 is not specifically designed as a rebuttal of the Kissinger commission's findings, but it makes substantially the same points as the Holland-Anderson pamphlet while seeking a "fresh start" to the US national debate on Central America policy. It is a formidable volume, with contributors drawn from different points of the political spectrum, ranging from former Carter administration officials to conservative specialists on Soviet foreign policy. All are united in their view that US policies are wrong-headed and counter-productive.

The Reagan administration has regarded Central America as a cold war problem, as an area vital to US national security interests because of Cuban/Soviet expansion in the region, through the Sandinista regime which took power in Nicaragua in 1979, and the FMLN (Farabundo Marti Liberation Front) guerrillas struggling to overthrow the government of El Salvador. A new variant on the domino theory suggests that Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico could fall, bringing Soviet-backed forces to the very border of the United States.

US policy therefore has focused on the need to "save" Central America from the communists. These fears are dismissed in the Labour Party paper as fantasy, but the Pergamon essays accept that the United States *has legitimate security* interests in Central America, and some reason to be concerned at the *overtly* pro-Soviet leanings of some of the Sandinista *comandates*. However, both Robert Leiken and Joseph Ciriucione find exaggerated the notion that Nicaragua might still constitute a military threat to the United States.

They, and other contributors, argue that the moment of Soviet Cuban expansio in the Western Hemisphere has passed, that the Soviet Union is not prepared to make a big commitment to Nicaragua, either economically or militarily, and that such Soviet weapons as the Sandinistas have acquired are purely defensive.

American pressure on Nicaragua has, however, continued as though it were an aggressive military power. The Kissinger report proposes that US support for the *contra* guerrillas based in Honduras should continue. Against this, Leiken and others argue that the United States should completely eschew the military option represented by ever-increasing aid to the Salvadorean armed forces and to the right-wing *contras*. Military aid to El Salvador merely shores up a military caste incapable of reforming itself and impervious to US pressures to behave in a more or less civilized manner towards its own people.

Both the Pergamon and Labour Party volumes call for what Leiken terms "historical compromise", a regional settlement involving all the contending forces that can be achieved only by negotiations.

Acceptance by the United States of the need for a *negotiated regional* political settlement would require a fundamental change in present ways of thinking about the region. This is what the Pergamon/Carnegie contributors seek, arguing that clichés, simplistic analogies and plain ignorance have characterized US attitudes towards Central America, not just now but for many years. President Calvin Coolidge used the threat of a supposed Bolshevik conspiracy to justify sending marines to Nicaragua in 1927, for example. They stayed for six years, installed the Somoza family in power, trained the National Guard and, with the best of intentions, paved the way for a dynastic dictatorship that lasted until 1979.

Howard Wiarda of the American Enterprise Institute traces much of the current confusion in administration thinking about Central America to a deep-seated belief in the United States that the republics to the south are unworthy of serious study, particularly the so-called "banana republics". Americans are bewildered when things do not turn out as they expect; economic aid, for example, should lead automatically to political stability, democracy and anti-communism. But it does not. Preconceived ideas and expectations must, therefore, be jettisoned and a determined effort made to see Central America as it really is.

This is a tall order. The confusions of US policy are likely to continue. The Administration is sceptical about negotiating, and talks of seeking victory for its allies as the only way to maintain US credibility in the eyes of the rest of the Western world. The logic of this position would appear to lead inevitably to direct US military involvement in both Nicaragua and El Salvador but, as several observers have pointed out, the political cost of such a course would be so appalling as to be unthinkable in election year. The CIA has apparently given a warning that the United States could expect to sustain up to 20,000 casualties if it intervened in Nicaragua.

The American public, not to mention the Pentagon, would be unlikely to accept that the benefits justified the costs. It is difficult to see how the Kissinger Commission's consensus offers a way out of this dilemma.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the excellent Pergamon/Carnegie essays are their strong plea for modesty in US foreign policy aims towards Central America. This implies shedding the illusion that outright military victory is possible – Nicaragua is not Grenada – and adjusting expectations to what is really possible. As Leiken says, Central American problems must ultimately be resolved by Central Americans.

Central America: Anatomy of Conflict, *edited by Robert S. Leiken. Pergamon Press, £13.95; and* Kissinger's Kingdom, *by Stuart Holland and Donald Anderson, Spokesman Books, £2.25.*

THE TIMES

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

BORROWED TIME IN BEIRUT

The "progress" which President Reagan claimed to be making in Lebanon in his State of the Union address was hard enough to discern at the time. A fortnight later there can be no doubt. So far from making progress, Lebanon yesterday had relapsed into full-scale civil war, reminiscent of the darkest days of 1976, with the army and government splitting apart once more on confessional lines. With no Muslim leader of significance willing to serve under him, President Amin Gemayel – in whom a year ago so many hopes of a revived and reunited Lebanon were vested – is now, however much he may wish it otherwise, reduced to being the President of one sect and one party. He is as isolated as President Sulaiman Franjieh was in the spring of 1976.

Mr Franjieh then clung to the Syrians, and they came to his rescue. Mr Gemayel clings to the Americans, but they are close to concluding that he is beyond help. Publicly Mr Shultz blames Syria (which in Lebanon is almost like blaming the weather) and the US Congress. Discussions with Syria, he says, "did get somewhere at a time when we appeared more forceful, but as we have continuing resolutions introduced in our Congress and discussions that are generated by that, the Syrians basically just become totally intransigent, and that's the position they are in now".

More discreetly, American officials blame President Gemayel himself. Ever since the end of August, they say, the US has been urging him to get rid of the non-political Wazzan government and bring in high-level representatives of the Shiite and Druze factions in a government of national reconciliation. Mr Gemayel has been either unable or unwilling to do that.

If they are honest, the Americans should admit that part of the blame for this attaches to their own policy. At the head of the list of opposition demands, and therefore the main sticking-point in the process of national reconciliation, was the abrogation of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement. In Geneva last November Mr Gemayel was at least halfway to conceding that. It was the Americans, as well as members of his own family and party, who pulled him back from that concession and encouraged him to stick firm.

Mr Shultz, who negotiated the May 17 agreement, takes a natural paternal interest in its fate. Indeed, had it been implemented, the agreement would have been an important step in the right direction. But, as the Israeli opposition pointed out at the time, it had "non-implementation built into it". For Israel, with US approval, made implementation conditional on simultaneous Syrian withdrawal – thereby handing President Assad a veto which he did not hesitate to exercise.

Mr Shultz was warned at the time, by his ambassador in Damascus among others, that there was no chance of Syria accepting the agreement. He brushed this aside, believing he could generate enough "moderate" Arab pressure to bring Syria round. That is still, it seems, American stategy. An unnamed White House official, quoted in the *New York Times*, says it is "important to discuss with other Arabs the possibility for putting counterpressure on Syria".

Something like a new Baghdad pact is in the air, composed of America's friends (Syria and Iran's enemies) in the Arab and Muslim worlds: Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Pakistan, perhaps even Mr Yasser Arafat – though the mere mention of his name reminds us that this new constellation will not mesh easily with the other strand of America's anti-Syrian strategy, namely cooperation with Israel. All this, if worked out at an informal and practical level, may have some defensive value. But that it can force Syria to retreat in Lebanon, where she is in a position of strength, seems most unlikely.

It had to be faced. May 17, whatever its theoretical merits, is a dead letter. Even if Israel now dropped the precondition of simultaneous Syrian withdrawal, there is no prospect of a Lebanese government capable of implementing the agreement. The problem now is to find a Lebanese government capable of halting the civil war, presiding over the orderly departure of the multi-national force, and negotiating security arrangements which would allow Israel to withdraw from the south without risking a resumption of cross-border terrorism. (Lebanese opposition groups have said they would accept this, and Syria has told the Lebanese she would not interfere, provided such arrangements were confined to the south and did not affect the rest of Lebanon's territory and air-space.)

Easier said than done, alas, now that wholesale mayhem has resumed in and around Beirut and both Druze and Shiite leaders are demanding President Gemayel's resignation. The suspicion is already strong among the governments participating in the MNF that Mr Gemayel has deliberately spun out the crisis in order to keep the MNF where it is. If that is so it is extremely foolish, for the MNF cannot stay for ever and the longer it stays without a solution the worse things are likely to get, not only for its own members but for Mr Gemayel and his supporters too.

Suggesting a return to Geneva on February 27 simply does not match the urgency of the crisis. Mr Gemayel has at best a few days left to discover whether a solution can be found that does not involve his departure – since Syria has not yet endorsed the view of her protégés that he has got to go. His slogan of "liberation before reconciliation" has manifestly failed. If he cannot get a reconciliation process started in the next few days he would do better to step down and let someone else try. To suppose the MNF can protect him from his own countrymen would be a disastrous illusion.

THE ABSENTEE VOTER

The most significant fact embedded in the Government's white paper on the Representation of the People Acts is the state of inaccuracy of the electoral register. It is reckoned that even at the point of compilation six per cent of those entitled to be included are not, which is about two million men and women; and a similar number are included who are not entitled to be. By the time the register comes into force the number of eligible but omitted is three million, and by the end of its period of currency the number is five and a half million.

Accuracy in this matter costs money, and the Government prefers to see what can be done without spending any more of it. The missing millions dwarf the new categories of voter the Government would like to introduce by legislation next session. But the latter break new ground and therefore attract more comment.

It is proposed to enfranchise 600.000 (at a guess) of British citizens who live abroad and do not therefore have the residential qualification that underlies our electoral system. At present exception is made only for members of the armed services and some other Crown servants. A well organized demand for the same treatment has come from British citizens living and working on the continent of Europe. The Government is happy to go further. All British citizens who are or have been on the electoral roll would be allowed to remain on it for seven years after removing abroad, anywhere.

Certainly someone who bats for Britain in an African subsidiary of ICI or beavers away at the Berlaymont is hardly less deserving of a vote back home than someone serving in the embassy at Bogota. But the net which lands these model citizens lands also an assortment of fugitives from justice, tax exiles, deserters from the rigours of the British climate or British socialism, Algarve golfers, voters-with-their-feet for Mr Botha's South Africa. Towards these potential voters approval is more mixed. The Government has rightly rejected any idea of discrimination on the basis of merit. The franchise falls on the just and unjust alike (unless actually in prison), and if it is to be extended to citizens living abroad the same impartiality has to apply.

This is for parliamentary and European Community elections. In the case of the latter it would be preferable to have a reciprocal arrangement by which the adult citizen of any member state is entitled to vote in the country in which he is resident at the time. That preserves the territorial character of parliamentary representation and harmonizes with the philosophy of the Treaty of Rome, to which Britain officially subscribes. It has to be said however that what the Government proposes is what the British elsewhere in the Community actually want, which is a vote in a British constituency.

The other main change in the white paper is an extension of absent voting. People away on holiday at election time have a grievance. The Government proposes to add them, with sundry other sorts of absentee, to the now restricted list of those entitled to cast a vote in absence by post or proxy. Assuming a 50 per cent take-up, the number of absent votes cast would be roughly doubled at about 1.2 million.

Applicants for postal votes would have to state why they are unable or likely to be unable to vote in person. The reasons are not restricted to a specified list. It is essential, the white paper says, that adequate steps should be taken to ensure that applications for an absent vote are received only by those who are qualified to ask for one. It is therefore made a requirement that the application be countersigned by another elector not of the applicant's immediate family.

Either it is essential that all applications be from genuine absentees, in which case some altogether more stringent form of invigilation would be required than the second signature mentioned. (Close examination is far beyond the resources of returning officers at their busiest time.) Or it is not essential, in which case the position would be one of absent voting virtually on demand.

There are two objections to absent voting on demand. The first many would dismiss as fanciful, though perhaps they should not. The emphatic act of turning out to vote at a polling station has greater reality in terms of civic participation than the everyday act of posting an envelope. It counts for more in the process of democratic bonding. Second, widespread postal and proxy voting enlarges the scope, now minimal, for corrupt practice. The white paper concedes this by proposing to withold the new absentee rights from Northern Ireland because of the prevalence of electoral abuse there. That may be prudent, but it is constitutionally grotesque that the rules should be other than uniform for the parliamentary electors of a unitary state.

Secrecy of the ballot and honesty of the electoral machinery, having been achieved and long enjoyed in Great Britain, are too readily taken for granted. The well-intentioned proposal for change now put forward by the Government would expose that achievement to risk. The proposal might be modified, but as it stands it would not do.

Rail archive disposal

From the Chief Secretary to the British Railways Board

Sir, Mr David Challis (January 11) is woefully misinformed. The Public Record Office, the National Railway Museum and we act in concert following the policy set out in my previous letter (December 23).

Any material which might be remotely considered to have historical value is offered to them for examination – we offer more rather than less.

The suggestion that our track record is "poor" is unworthy in the light of the facts and gives us no credit for what has been achieved during a period when there is a limit to how much money we can spend on the preservation of records as opposed to the movement of passengers.

The examples quoted by Mr ... Green material was not "hastily. . .destroyed in 1977". In fact, as Mr Challis was told in 1978, all documents considered to be of interest were moved to another store.

The Public Record Office have taken all the records they require for preservation; and about one ton of minor records remain with us. These records are available for any relevant society if they wish to have them – they relate mainly to small property transactions carried out by the Great Northern Railway about the turn of the century.

I must add that they are in a relatively poor condition; that is why we stopped using Bethnal Green as a store. The 1969 case quoted (the Stephenson plans) was raised in Parliament at the time. The drawings concerned were subsidiaries of the key plans; the latter are still preserved.

Mr John Watling wrote to you (December 31) in similar vein about the records at Temple Mills Wagon Works. I have already written to Mr Watling telling him that *disposal* of the records is not imminent: what is imminent is the *transfer* of the records to another store.

In all these cases I think it would be far more profitable if individual societies interested in railway archives were to write and advise me of their status and their particular interest in order that we may consider the transfer of minor historical records to them after we have gone through the standard procedure with the Public Record Office and the National Railway Museum.

Your sincerely,
GERRY BURT, Chief Secretary,
British Railways Board,
Euston Square,
PO Box 100, NW1.
January 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bars to healing in East and West

From Mr and Mrs E. P. Thompson

Sir, In a time of international deadlock may we write to express our own anger about two matters?

1. You report (January 19) that President Ceaucescu, of Romania, and Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, have addressed a joint letter to President Reagan and President Andropov deploring the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe. We would suppose that this evenhanded initiative would carry the support of a majority of the British people

Yet (your report continues) this appeal "has brought an angry protest from Britain" and the Greek Ambassador in London "was told recently by the Foreign Office of its extreme annoyance that Greece had failed to consult Britain before joining such an unorthodox venture on a matter of direct concern to the British people."

We hope that the Greek Ambassador will be assured that a great part of British opinion welcomes the initiative of his Prime Minister and deplores the meretricious meddling in Greek affairs of the British Foreign Office.

2. You have also reported (and our own private information confirms) that the Soviet security police continue, week after week, to harrass the Moscow Group for the Establishment of Trust between the USA and the USSR. In particular we learn that Dr Olga Medvedkova is threatened shortly with trial on the absurd charge of assaulting the police.

Few things would give more dismay to many supporters of the peace movement in West Europe and the USA. The trial of Dr Medvedkova would symbolise, in a brutal manner, the closing of the blocks against each other and the end of informal attempts at direct citizen exchange.

Against all the odds we maintain our view that the future of peace depends upon detaching public opinion (East as well as West) from the inexorable logic of block confrontation and enlarging informal exchanges and dialogue.

These two episodes (one in Moscow and one in London) reveal the forces, on both sides, which refuse to permit any healing process to commence.

Yours faithfully,
E. P. THOMPSON,
DOROTHY THOMPSON,
Wick Episcopi,
Upper Wick,
Worcester.

Aiding repatriation

From the Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, I cannot allow Mr Nadeem to get away unchallenged with his remarks (January 25) about the changes I recently announced in the arrangements for Government assistance with voluntary repatriation.

The power enabling public funds to be used towards the expenses of people returning overseas was not included in the 1971 Immigration Act as a concession to those who advocated compulsory repatriation.

As the Home Secretary of the day (Reggie Maudling) made quite clear when moving the second reading of the Bill, the scheme was introduced as a commonsense and humanitarian way of helping immigrant families who clearly wanted to return but could not afford to do so. The scheme will continue to be administered in this spirit.

There is no substance to Mr Nadeem's contention that the revised arrangements will "encourage the racialists and hamper racial harmony". The Government hold no brief for racialists. By simplifying the present complicated arrangements we are making it easier for people who freely and genuinely have decided that they wish to leave to take advantage of the assistance that is available.

As to Mr Nadeem's final point, if a person chooses to renounce his British citizenship in order to take advantage of this assistance – and he can only renounce it if he has, or can acquire, another citizenship – it is self-evident that he wishes to leave this country for good. The Catch 22 situation that Mr Nadeem attempts to construct is a product of his own imagination.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WADDINGTON,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
January 26.

Moscow clockmaker

From Sir George S. J. White

Sir, The English clockmaker, "yet another itinerant Briton by the name of Galloway" (Letter from Moscow, January 25) was actually Christopher Holloway (at worst Halloway), who remained in Moscow from 1621 to 1645. While he was the maker of a great clock and dial for the Saviour Tower, he can hardly be credited for having "had a hand in designing the Kremlin."

What he did achieve was the manufacture of the first public clock dial to suit the Russian temperament.

Samuel Collins (another Englishman in Moscow at the time) wrote in his *Survey of the Present State of Russia*: "In our Clock Dyals the finger moves to the figure: In Russia e contra the Figures move to the Poynter. One Mr Holloway, a very ingenious man, contrived the first Dyal of that fashion: saying, because they acted contrary to all men, 'twas fitting their work should be made suitable."

Yours faithfully,
G. S. J. WHITE,
The Old Vicarage,
Hawkesbury,
Near Badminton,
Avon.
January 25.

Looking to successor for 'work ethic'

From the Dean of St Paul's

Sir, There are now well over a million people who have been unemployed for more than a year. A quarter of this number are under 25 and are at risk. Many of them have no alternative but to wander around without hope or purpose. Others between 25 and 65 suffer from moral isolation and social deprivation. The more visible evidence is in alcoholism, drug abuse, and the decline of social and family life in neighbourhood and local communities where long-term unemployment may be concentrated.

Central government is helping through MSC and other agencies to create training and short-term employment opportunities. Useful as these schemes are, they can only be viewed as palliatives. There must be an acceptance that our work-based society, as it is understood today, is running out of paid work opportunities for many of its workpeople.

With this acceptance must come statutory requirements for job-sharing, restrictions of overtime working, long-service leave, early retirement and greater incoming sharing, but these do not reach to the heart of the matter.

Changes emanating from central government can only be effective over a decade or so. In the meantime the wealth-creators in industry and commerce should acknowledge the problem of long-term unemployment as part of their responsibility. Modern management, it is commonly accepted, has not only a responsibility to shareholders and employees but a social responsibility as well.

I therefore appeal to the wealth-creators in our country, both corporate and individual, to be alert and to respond to the resource requirements of responsible voluntary bodies, the value of whose service to our community increases as the pruning of public expenditure continues. I write this as chairman of a working party representing national voluntary organisations who are seeking greater participation and support.

As a churchman I long to see more use being made of the unique resources possessed by 30,000 churches of all denominations throughout Great Britain. May I use your columns to inform readers of an organisation, Church Action with the Unemployed, which seeks to support and encourage local churches in their work with unemployed people.

Finally, I believe we need an intensive national debate on the future structure of our society. Should we seek a new "life ethic" to replace the "work ethic" and what form should this take?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN WEBSTER,
The Deanery,
9 Amen Court, EC4.
February 3.

Late abortions

From Professor E. A. Alberman and others

Sir, We are writing to you as members of the steering committee of the research report of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist's study of *Late Abortion in England and Wales*.

Your report on page 3 of *The Times*, January 19, gives the impression of an enormous problem posed by delays in the National Health Service and exaggerates the size of this problem.

We were anxious to point out that there was indeed a problem of unnecessary administrative delay in many late abortions. However, the third paragraph of your report is misleading. What it should have said was that one in five of women who had their abortions between the twentieth and twenty-seventh weeks and who were medically referred had been referred by the thirteenth week.

Since the total number of late abortions carried out after the nineteenth week of pregnancy represents around 1.5 per cent of the abortion patients resident in this country it is only a small number of women who experience very long delays. The NHS systems for dealing with these patients, though cumbrous and imperfect, do not deserve as much censure as your report suggests.

Your leader in the same day's *Times* focuses on a separate issue – the definition of foetal viability – which was not the subject of our report. This affects not only the Infant Life Preservation Act 1929 mentioned by your correspondent, Lord Robertson (January 19), but also stillbirth and infant death registration among other statutory requirements.

A debate about this separate issue is under way within the medical profession, and it is to be hoped that a consensus will emerge later in the year.

Yours faithfully,
EVA ALBERMAN,
S. L. BARRON,
ANN CARTWRIGHT,
K. JOHN DENNIS,
CAROL JOSEPH,
ROSALIND STANWELL-SMITH,
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,
27 Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
January 20.

GCHQ dismissal

From Mr D. J. Benson

Sir, In your account (January 26) of the background to the latest Government Communications Headquarters affair reference was made to the legal action initiated by Lieutenant-Colonel John Waite concerning his employment there.

To remove any possible doubt, it should be made clear that neither his action in this matter nor mine was assisted or supported by any union. Indeed, it was precisely because GCHQ considered it necessary to agree to an early promotions early retirement policy instigated by the unions that we approached the Industrial Tribunal.

Our efforts were successful at that level, but failed in law at later stages. No orders as to costs were made against Lieutenant-Colonel Waite in either the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords.

As shown on the record of a hearing of the Industrial Tribunal at Gloucester on January 22, 1982, GCHQ felt bound by a union agreement:

> .... the respondents could not retain him, on the same job, until he was 65 because of an agreement made in 1975 between the Civil Service Department and the appropriate unions. The agreement was made to ensure that for younger civil servants there would be appropriate avenues in which they would be advanced.
>
> "The basic grade for any executive officer (including a senior executive officer, like the applicant) was that of clerical officer. That meant that any senior executive officer who was regressed must accept a demotion to the grade of clerical officer. Before the agreement in 1975, the basic grade for all executive officers (including all senior ones) was that of executive officer .... the respondents had no reasonable alternative but to regress Colonel Waite."

My personal request for a copy of this 1975 agreement, or further information about it, resulted in a letter from the Treasury Solicitor in July, 1981, advising that there was no knowledge of such a document. It was suggested that the reference was to an agreement between GCHQ (not the Civil Service Department) and the unions in 1972 (not 1975).

Faced with learned counsel at the Employment Appeal Tribunal, my argument that single departments could not fetter their discretionary powers on retirement, as laid down by the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury in 1952 and never rescinded, failed to hold.

All of these legal proceedings are now over, but it is refreshing to know that in future all such decisions will be made at GCHQ, based only on considerations of operational efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. BENSON,
6 Robson Road,
Worthing,
West Sussex.
January 26.

Student prospects

From the President of the National Union of Students

Sir, Readers of your front page article on graduate employment prospects (January 19) may have been led to believe that graduates will find it much easier to get jobs this year. Although I recognise that there may be some slight improvement in the outlook for 1984 graduates, I must point out that the overall picture compared to a few years ago remains bleak.

During the late 1970s between 5 per cent and 6 per cent of first degree graduates from universities and polytechnics were still unemployed at the end of the year in which they graduated. But in 1980 the proportion of unemployed graduates almost doubled and it has continued to rise since. In 1982, the last year for which figures are available, the figure stood at 13 per cent.

These figures do not take account of the fact that many first degree graduates do not enter the employment market immediately. Over 25,000 of this year's graduates are expected to go on to further education or training and a further 13,000 will go abroad (mostly overseas students returning home).

When these and other factors are taken into account it becomes clear that out of every six graduates who start the summer looking for work there will still be at least one unemployed this time next year.

During the 1960s and early 1970s students were prepared to accept poor living conditions in return for the reward of a guaranteed job at the end of their studies. It was almost an unwritten deal, for which there is now no basis.

At a time when young people should be actively encouraged to continue their education rather than swell the dole queues on leaving school there needs to be some incentive. Therefore the National Union of Students is seeking a "new deal" to give students a decent standard of living.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL STEWART, President,
National Union of Students,
461 Holloway Road, N7.

Cigarette advertising

From Professor M. H. Lessof

Sir, The *New York State Journal of Medicine* has devoted an entire issue to the scourge of our time – the cigarette. Doctors throughout the world have warned against the dangers of smoking, but the tobacco industry continues to attract, not only adults, but also children in large numbers, to a habit which causes a great deal of ill health.

HM Government has now announced firm restrictions on the amount of money which may be spent by the pharmaceutical industry on promoting its products. The tobacco industry, however, remains free to advertise its cigarettes and its brand names at any level of spending it may choose.

While paying lip service to preventive medicine we thus accept a level of smoking among young people which can only lead to heart disease, chronic bronchitis and cancer.

It is coming to be widely recognised that this is a scandalous situation. What appears to be absent, however, is any sense of urgency in dealing with the problem or any sign that there is the political will to do so.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. LESSOF,
8 John Spencer Square, N1.
January 27.

Aged and helpless in Soviet Union

From Lord Annan and others

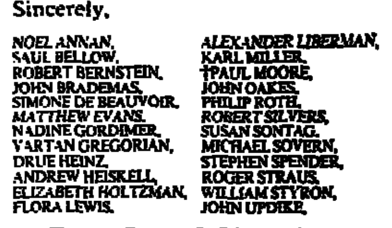
Sir, We wish to call your attention to the plight of Aleksandr Ivanovich Brodsky, the 80-year-old father of the illustrious poet, Joseph Brodsky.

Mr Brodsky jun, the only child of his parents, is a naturalized citizen of the United States. Twelve times the Soviet agency, OVIR, has denied them permission to leave, stating either that they did not deem this to be purposeful or that an invitation to the United States was inappropriate as their records indicate that Mr Brodsky jun had emigrated to Israel.

The truth is that he became a US citizen in 1977. In the course of these numerous rejections, the poet's mother went to Moscow to plead unavailingly with the Ministry of the Interior. On March 17, 1983, she died. Her husband, who is in poor health, received the most recent rejection in October.

These denials by the Soviets of a helpless old man's requests are in flagrant violation of the Helsinki declaration, to which the USSR is a signatory. The declaration has in part as its purpose the reunion of families. This family of three is now a family of two.

Sincerely,


NOEL ANNAN, SAUL BELLOW, ROBERT BERNSTEIN, JOHN BRADEMAS, SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR, MATTHEW EVANS, NADINE GORDIMER, VARTAN GREGORIAN, DRUE HEINZ, ANDREW HEISKELL, ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, FLORA LEWIS, ALEXANDER LIBERMAN, KARL MILLER, PAUL MOORE, JOHN OAKES, PHILIP ROTH, ROBERT SILVERS, SUSAN SONTAG, MICHAEL SOVERN, STEPHEN SPENDER, ROGER STRAUS, WILLIAM STYRON, JOHN UPDIKE.

c/o Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc,
19 Union Square West,
New York,
New York 10003,
USA.
February 6.

Protecting investors

From the Chairman of the Stock Exchange

Sir, Lorna Bourke's article on January 21 about Professor Gower's Review of Investor Protection said that if "two proposals – compensation and an ombudsman – are implemented, then for the first time investors will have proper protection". I believe I should record that this is not strictly correct.

Investors who have dealt in stocks and shares through, or who have entrusted the management of their portfolio to, Stock Exchange members have had proper protection for a long time.

We instituted a voluntary and unlimited compensation fund in 1951, which is as comprehensive and generous as any of its type in the world. We also have a well tried system for dealing with complaints from clients of stockbroking firms.

The Council for the Securities Industry, futhermore, has a subcommittee which deals with complaints against members of bodies who do not have a proper procedure themselves for dealing with them.

I realise that Miss Bourke probably intended these words to refer only to the lack of adequate protection for investors outside the Stock Exchange. In this she is absolutely right.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS GOODISON,
Chairman,
The Stock Exchange, EC2.
January 24.

Rate-capping policies

From Mr Bernard Garbacz

Sir, I am one of those unfortunate members of the community who suffer most by having to contend with the ineffiency of two of the worst run boroughs in the country, and consequently with the highest rates bill.

My home is in the London borough of Barnet (Conservative controlled) and my office is in the London borough of Brent, which until the recent fracas of a few weeks ago, was Labour controlled. My office provides employment for over seventy local residents and yet our rates bill for the area of office space we occupy is probably three times the rates payable on similar office suites in the Westminster area for instance.

The massive local expenditure at both Barnet and Brent is totally out of hand, and I believe that the Government's new proposed Rates Bill, if it becomes law, will be much welcomed legislation to curb the blatant inefficiency of some of our local authorities.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD GARBACZ,
Landau Morley,
Chartered Accountants,
386 High Road,
Wembley,
Middlesex.
January 18.

Old two hundredth

From Sir Laurence Grafftey-Smith

Sir, I write hoping that you may allow me an elegiac reference to the passing of the current half-penny, for this minute absurdity, making nonsense of any decimal cheque, had usurped the proud position of the old penny in relation to the pound.

And, in the lifetime of many, what did a penny buy! Quite a lot of sweets, and W. T. Stead's *Books for the Bairns*; a dozen boxes of matches, none of which rattled; first-class postage anywhere in the British isles; and everything on the shelves of Messrs Marks and Spencer's Penny Bazaar. The final abolition of even notional replacement of this precious element should not go unmourned.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE GRAFFTEY-SMITH,
Broom Hill House,
Coddenham,
Suffolk.
February 1.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 6: The Queen arrived at Buckingham Palace this afternoon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon launched the Norfolk Outward Bound Association at Middleton Tower, King's Lynn, where His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, this evening presided at a dinner at St John's College to celebrate 400 years of printing and publishing by the University Press.

Lieutenant-Commander Andrew Wynn, RN, was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
February 7: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a meeting of the Oakley Lodge at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

Princess Anne, Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall on March 14.

The Hon Mrs Heber-Percy gave birth to a son on January 29.

The Duchess of Roxburghe gave birth to a son in Edinburgh on February 2.

Mrs Jeremy Ropner will give a small dance for Mr Simon and Miss Lisa Ropner in Yorkshire on June 2.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain A. T. Gilchrist and Miss A. E. B. Thomson
The engagement is announced between Andrew Thomas, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. C. Gilchrist, of Orpington, Kent, and Nancy, only daughter of Sir John and Lady Thomson, UK Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Mr I. A. Robertson and Miss M. C. Evans
The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. L. Robertson, of Wootton, Bedfordshire, and Megan Catriona, daughter of Sir Hywel and Lady Evans, of St Fagans, Cardiff.

Mr S. M. Barrett and Miss P. M. Hudson
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Squadron Leader and Mrs J. T. Barrett, of Cambridge, and Philippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E. G. Hudson, of Whitley Bay.

Mr C. A. Beaton and Miss S. Watson
The engagement is announced between Callum Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs C. Beaton, of Wivenhoe, Essex, and Sandra, only daughter of Mrs G. M. Singleton, of Edinburgh, and Mr C. Watson, of Glasgow.

Mr N. M. Billinge and Miss S. A. Sharpe
The engagement is announced between Nigel Mark, son of Mr and Mrs R. Billinge, of Geneva, Switzerland, and Stefania Anne, daughter of Major and Mrs B. W. Sharpe, of Luxembourg, and Woldingham, Surrey.

Mr H. K. Brady and Miss A. L. F. Fidler
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs H. Brady, of Prestwich, Lancashire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. D. F. Fidler, of Pyrford, Surrey.

Dr N. D. Brener and Miss L. A. Randall
The engagement is announced between Neil, second son of Mr and Mrs L. Brener, St John's Wood, London, and Lisa, only daughter of Dr and Mrs R. Randall, Loughton, Essex.

Mr R. A. Ll. Brown and Miss J. H. Whyte
The engagement is announced between Richard Arthur Llewellyn, second son of Mr and Mrs David Brown, Guston, Chelwood Gate, and Jill Heather, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Whyte, Followsters Farm, Grampian.

Mr R. V. J. Coombs and Miss J. Gauntlett
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs J. M. Coombs, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. J. Gauntlett, both of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr A. M. Powell and Miss J. A. Aston
The engagement is announced of Andrew Malcolm Powell, of The Oval, London, and Jean Ann Aston, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.

Mr W. McD. Eddis and Miss A. Risaburo Omura
The engagement is announced and the marriage will shortly take place in Osaka, Japan, between William, son of the late Arthur McD. Eddis, and Mrs Da Eddis, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Akiko, daughter of Mr and Mrs Risaburo Omura.

Dr P. D. Grebenik and Miss H. L. Keeping
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs E. Grebenik, of Egham, Surrey, and Harriet, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. Keeping, of Tickhill, Yorkshire.

Dr P. J. Guest and Miss N. J. Meadows
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs F. T. Guest, of Silverton, Devon, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. Meadows, of Bucklebury, Berkshire.

Mr N. J. D. Haywood and Miss H. E. Corker
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John Denham, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Haywood, of Chapel House, Long Melford, Sudbury, Suffolk, and Hannah Eileen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Corker, of 107 Berkeley Court, Baker Street, London NW1 5NE.

Mr D. A. Hughes and Miss J. G. Weston
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Olive and Stanley Hughes, of Winchester, and Jenny, elder daughter of John and Sheila Weston, of Brentor and Dulwich.

Mr C. G. Hutson and Miss R. L. Tetlow
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs T. G. Hutson, of Ditchling, Sussex, and Rosalind, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. C. Tetlow, of Debden, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr P. H. Jackson and Miss C. M. Woodgate
The engagement is announced between Paul Henry, only son of Mr S. B. Jackson, MBE, and of Mrs Jackson, of Sandal, Wakefield, and Catherine Mary, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs G. K. Woodgate, of Cumnor Hill, Oxford.

Captain M. J. Mumford, RE and Miss K. M. Vivian
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs R. B. Mumford, of The Sheppey, Stanton, Worcestershire, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Vivian, of West Berlin.

Mr S. H. Keeling and Miss S. G. Fooks
The engagement is announced between Simon Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Keeling, of Sedlescombe, Sussex, and Sarah Giolia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fooks, of Ticehurst, Sussex.

Dr M. Patterson and Miss H. M. Chartres
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Dr and Mrs John Patterson, of Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Irvine Chartres, of Seacon, co Antrim.

Dr J. C. Nainby-Luxmoore and Miss S. A. Tweedy
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Chave, eldest son of Dr R. C. Nainby-Luxmoore, of Old Portsmouth, Hampshire, and Mrs Ruth Nainby-Luxmoore, of Denmead, Hampshire, and Sareth Ann, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs O. R. Tweedy, of Perth, Scotland.

Mr M. S. Pilkington and Miss S. H. Lee
The engagement is announced between Martin Stephen, second son of Mr and Mrs D. F. Pilkington, of Granville Park West, Ormskirk, and Seo Hyang, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. R. Lee, of Kwang-ju, South Korea.

Dr M. R. W. Rands and Miss G. F. Porter Goff
The engagement is announced between Michael Russell Wheldon, only son of Mrs Freda Rands, of Langham, Norfolk, and the late Mr Russell Rands, and Gillian Frances, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Robin Porter Goff, of Cambridge.

Mr D. B. Stapylton-Smith and Miss A. M. Bromley
The engagement is announced between Duncan, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. H. R. F. Stapylton-Smith, of Ilam House, Hawkhurst, Kent, and Antonia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs B. B. W. Bromley, of Crowborough, Sussex.

Mr B. J. Taylor and Miss S. J. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Bernard John, only son of Mrs E. F. Taylor and the late Mr John Taylor, of Prestbury, Gloucestershire, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Taylor, of Paris.

Mr P. G. Throssell and Miss J. E. Borsboom
The engagement is announced between Piers Graham, only son of Mr and Mrs P. G. Throssell, of Fellover, St Breward, Cornwall, and Joan Elisabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs W. C. Borsboom, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr H. E. A. Wedderburn and Miss S. J. Round
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of the late Major David Wedderburn, Grenadier Guards, and Major and Mrs Warren Freeman-Atwood, of Wanborough, Surrey, and Sarah Juliet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Round, of Layer Marney, Essex.

Mr R. M. Wicks and Miss C. R. Gordon
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Malcolm Wicks, of Little Orchard, Popps Lane, Bexhill, and Katy, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Ian Gordon, of Trimmers, Heyshott, near Midhurst, Sussex.

Marriage

Mr K. Ansar and Miss Y. Abbasi
The marriage took place in Karachi on January 27 of Mr Kaamil Ansar, son of Mr Ansar Hussain Khan and Begum Farrukh Nigar Aziz, and Miss Yasmien Abbasi, daughter of Nawab Al-Haj Muhammad Abbas Khan Abbasi and Begum Abbasi, of Bahawalpur

Red Maids' School, Westbury-on-Trym

The Red Maids' School will celebrate its 350th anniversary in 1984. The main celebrations to be held at the school from July 4 to 10, will include a thanksgiving service, a concert, a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and an archives exhibition. John Whitson's day will be November 16. Further details may be obtained from the celebrations secretary at the school upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Reward for bravery in facing armed robbers

Two courts in London yesterday rewarded the bravery of men who came under fire from armed robbers.

At the Central Criminal Court Judge Gibbens, QC, told Mr Stephen Rudge, aged 34, a former Scotland Yard Flying Squad detective and his business partner, Mr John Hale, aged 43, that he would recommend them for one of the highest civilian honours, Captain Binney Awards for Heroism.

As a token he awarded Mr Rudge and Mr Hale, both family men who run a security company, cash payments of £200 and £150 respectively.

Judge Gibbens said James Tomkins, aged 34, of King and Queen Street, Walworth, south London, the man they had helped to capture, "was obviously willing to sacrifice the life of anyone who got in his way".

Tomkins was jailed for 12 years for robbery, wounding and firearms possession, resulting from a £13,500 hold-up outside a bank in Shoreditch, east London, last year.

Mr Rudge had dragged Tomkins from a motor cycle and had grabbed his revolver, despite shots being fired at him.

At Bow Street Magistrates' Court Sergeant Andrew Davidson, aged 30, and PC Brian Chappell, who tracked an armed robber along a north London railway line while being shot at were also rewarded for their bravery.

The robber, who was later jailed for two years, had taken cash from a petrol station in Mill Hill, where he had aimed an air pistol at the cashier.

Both policeman received a cheque for £75 from the court's fund.



Right: PC Brian Chappell and Sergeant Andrew Davidson with their cheques yesterday.

The February night sky

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury is a morning star at about 07h throughout the month. Although brightening, its elongation from the Sun is decreasing and it will be very difficult to see.

Venus will be rising at about 06h; with a greater elongation than Mercury and being a very bright object it will be quite conspicuous in spite of its low altitude. Moon near it on the 29th.

Mars has just crossed into Libra and will be rising at about midnight. It will overtake Saturn at a distance of less than a degree on the 15th; nearly equal in magnitude at 0.6 and 0.5 respectively. Mars being reddish in comparison. Moon nearing Mars on the 22nd.

Jupiter in Sagittarius, like all the planets at present, is a morning star, rising before dawn. Moon near it on the 26th.

Saturn like Mars will be rising at about midnight. It will be stationary on the 25th and will then begin its slow retrograde motion among the stars. Moon very close to it on the 22nd.

Uranus and Neptune are morning stars in Ophiuchus and Sagittarius respectively.

The Moon: new, 1d24h; first quarter, 10d04h; full, 17d01h; last quarter, 23d17h.

Algol: approximate times of evening minima are 2d18½h, 19d23½h and 22d20h.

It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to write a monthly column without repetition. However, people forget, the readership changes, and from time to time a request is received for an explanation which has been given before. The request this time is: "Why are mornings and afternoons usually different in length?"

To ordinary persons, though not for scientific perfectionists in their own work, the rotation of the Earth is uniform and days measured by successive transits (Meridian crossings of the stars are equal in length.

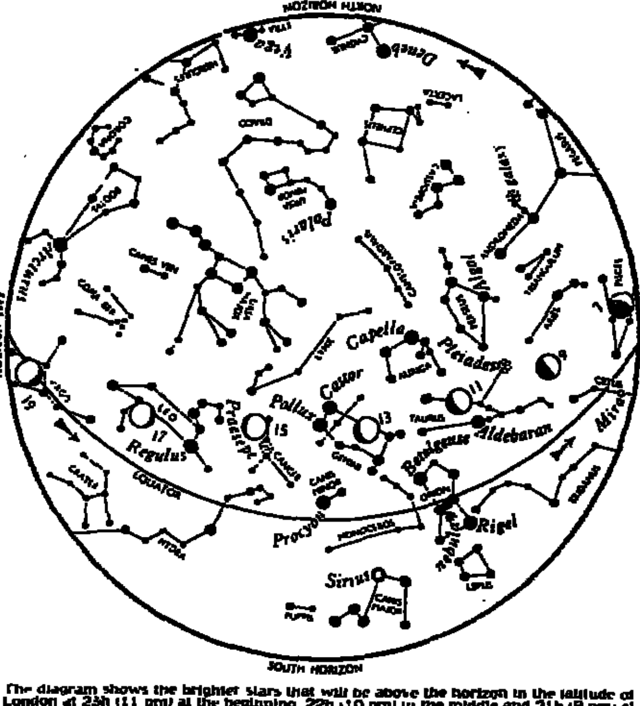
If the Sun were on the celestial equator and moving past the stars at a uniform rate its days would also be equal in length. It does not move along the equator but along the inclined ecliptic, cutting the equator at the equinoxes.

It does not move at a uniform speed either, but faster at perihelion in January (see notes last month) than at aphelion in July. Thus, solar days are not equal in length, so the sundial reading will differ from the mean time clock by anything up) to a quarter of an hour.

The brightest star in the sky, Sirius, is now prominent in the south. It is a white star, roughly twice as large and twice as hot as the Sun. It has an interesting companiion which was discovered before it was seen. In the Earth-Moon system the moon does not literally revolve around the Earth: each body revolves around their common centre of mass, which is situated a bit below the Earth's surface. Consequently, the Earth wobbles on its way around the Sun.

In 1834 the German astronomer Bessel discovered that Sirius wobbled and inferred that there was an invisible companion with a period of about 50 years. It was not until 1852 that there was a telescope powerful enough for the lesser star to be seen by the American Alvan Clark.

This Sirius B is a white dwarf, a very dense and very small star with an apparent magnitude of 8.7 – quite obliterated, in ordinary telescopes, by its brilliant neighbour.



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h (11 pm) at the beginning, 22h (10 pm) in the middle and 21h (9 pm) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich times at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon the observer is facing (shown by the words around the circle) is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Mrs Edwina Coven to be chairman of the City of London Police Committee in succession to Mr Brian Wilson.

Mrs Eleri Wynne Jones, a part-time lecturer at the Gwynedd Technical College, Bangor, to be a member of the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority.

Mr Edward Clements, deputy chief examiner of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, to be the institute's chief examiner in succession to Mr Alec Jones.

Mr J. M. Thomson to be a member of the Thames Water Authority.

Mrs Jose Frances Marshall, Head Mistress of Dodderhill School, Droitwich, to be Headmistress of Truro High School from September.

Birthdays today

Lord Bellwin, 61; Lord Bottomley, 77; Miss Dora Bryan, 60; Professor Henry Clifford Darby, 75; the Earl of Cork and Orrery, 74; the Earl of Harewood, 61; Mr Peter Jay, 47; Lord Keith of Kinkel, 62; Sir John Leahy, 56; Sir George Moseley, 59; Sir Michael Newton, 61; Sir Geoffrey Peacock, 64; Mr Robert Reid, 63; Mr John Ritchie, 71; Mr R. W. Watson, 58; Sir Brian Windeyer, 80.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, was host at a luncheon held at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of Mr Frans Andriessen, EEC Commissioner.

Coal Industry Society
A luncheon of the Coal Industry Society was held at the Park Lane Hotel yesterday. Lord Ezra, president, introduced the principal guest and speaker, Sir Walter Marshall, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board. Mr K. Gardiner was in the chair.

Receptions

British Veterinary Association
Sir Peter Mills, MP, was host at a reception held by the British Veterinary Association in the House of Commons yesterday after the opening of an exhibition on the association's activities in the Upper Waiting Hall by Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

English-Speaking Union
The English-Speaking Union held a reception at Dartmouth House last night after a lecture given by Mr Peter Cotes and Lady Barbirolli on the book *The Barbirollis – a Musical Marriage*. The guest were received by Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director of branches and cultural affairs, English-Speaking Union.

Dinner

USPG
The Council of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel held a dinner at 15 Tufton Street, Westminster, yesterday evening to mark the retirement of Canon J. S. Robertson as secretary. Dr A. J. Palfrey presided and those present included:
The Bishop of Lichfield, the Bishop of Ripon, the Right Rev John Howe, Mrs J S Robertson, Mr Terry Waite (Assistant to the Archbishop of Canterbury for Anglican Communion Affairs) and Mr W D Pattinson (Secretary-General of the General Synod).

RAF scholarships

The following were successful in the 1983 Royal Air Force Scholarship Competitions:
R A Abercromby, Morrison's Acad, Crieff; K F Allen, Abingdon S; S E Arthy, Abingdon S; J M Baker, Ipswich S; A D Bastable, Bloxham S, Banbury; I Beadle, Gilberd S, Colchester; F C Bensant, Chigwell S; D J Brown, Byrchall HS, Wigan; T S Butler, Millbrook Comp S; S Calcioli, Q Elizabeth HS, Hexham; J B Campbell, Daniel Stewart and Melville S; P M Carr, Sevenoaks S; M H Carver, Bradfield C; W W Chadwick, Bedford Modern S; G S Cockerill, Howletch Comp S, Peterlee; N S Corson, Boston Spa Comp S; D A Crampton, Christ's Hospital S; A J Dennis, St Joseph's S, Ipswich; S D Ellard, Tredegar Comp S; C V Enright, Bellemoor S, Southampton; C J Everall, Shrewsbury; S R Fisher, St Brendan's S, Bristol; D L Ford, Cyfarthfa HS, Merthyr Tydfil; B L Foster, Stockport GS; M P Fox, Forest S, Wokingham; J K Frampton, Maidstone GS; A M Game, Chatham House GS, Ramsgate; P Garrett, Trinity C, Glenalmond; W J Gilpin, Millfield; C R Groom, Wrockwardine Wood S, Telford.
S Graves, Dukeries Comp S, Newark; I J Hargreaves, Thurston S, Bury St Edmunds; D J Hazell, St Bede's Bristol; A E Hill, The King's S, Worcester; T Hossie, Thomas Rich's GS, Gloucester; S F Hulley, Bolton S; P Humphreys, Horley Comp S, Surrey; A J Humbach, Ellesmere C; P W Hutchings, Chigwell S; J E Hutchinson, Bury GS; A D Hyne, Kingsbridge Comp S, Devon; W A James, King Ecgbert S, Sheffield; R M Jameson, Taunton S; A G Jenkins, Haileybury; A M Johnson, Wootton Bassett Comp S, Swindon; P R Jones, Fernwood Comp S, Nottingham; A J Massey, Shrewsbury 6th Form C; S McEvoy, St Bede's, Manchester; S J McNamara, Sir W Borlase's S, Marlow; S D Metcalfe, L Sherriff S, Rugby; J Morris, Tettenhall C; M I O'Brien, Highworth Comp S, Wiltshire; M S Phiddister, St Ambrose C, Cheshire; D M Picton, Bournemouth S; C N Plain, Hautlieu, St Helier S, Jersey; M D Rainier, D Stringer HS, Brighton; C H Ratcliffe, J Hunt S, Peterborough; S G Read, G Abbott S, Guildford; A W Robinson, Sherwood Hall, Mansfield; S I Roxburgh, Daniel Stewart and Melville.
C J Sherwell, Christ the King RC, Southport; A F G Smith, St Michael's S, Llanelli; R Storrs, Prolora Royal S; D Stubbington, Park House, Newbury; G Tunnicliffe, Devonport HS; A C Ward, King's S, Ely; R A Warner, Poole GS; P A Weaver, Chase Terrace HS, Walsall; M C Wells, Exeter S; S W White, Allhallows, Dorset; M A Wilde, Minster S, Newark; R O Williams, Christ C, Brecon; N A Witman, K Edward VI S, Norwich; R M Woods, Monmouth S.

Wings ceremony

Having their advanced flying training for fast jet aircraft at No 4 Flying Training School, RAF Valley, the following officers of No 95 and 96 received their wings last week from Air Marshal Sir Michael Beavis, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Support Command:
95 Course: Flight Lieutenants N H Aldersley, BTech, A Bruce, BSc, J V Carr, BTech, K I McCredie, BSc, I T Milsom, BSc, R Robinson, BA, D A Sandys, BSc. 96 Course: Flight Lieutenants J D Bourn, BSc, A K Brown, BSc, T J Surbiton, BSc, A Jeremy, BSc, M J W Napier, BSc, N C Rogers, BSc, Flying Officers M J Cole, G Stockill, Pilot Officer T B Ellison.
Prize-winners: Cup of Honour and British Aerospace Trophy, Flight Lieutenant Sandys; Flying Officer Cole, Valiant Trophy (Ground School), Flight Lieutenant Aldersley, Pilot Officer Ellison; Wright Trophy (Aerobatics) Flight Lieutenant Carr, Flying Officer Stockill; Mather Trophy (Navigation), Flight Lieutenant Sandys, Flying Officer Stockill; Flying Trophy, Flight Lieutenant Sandys, Flying Officer Cole; Paul Gay Trophy (Officer Qualities), Flight Lieutenant Milsom, Flying Officer Cole.

OBITUARY

LORD BYERS
Leader of Liberal peers

Lord Byers, PC, OBE, leader of the Liberal peers in the House of Lords since 1967 and an outstanding personality in Liberal Party politics for the past quarter of a century, died yesterday aged 68.

He was twice chairman of the Liberal Party, a former Liberal Chief Whip in the House of Commons and a man whose ability and driving force would have carried him to high ministerial office in either of the other two political parties. But he was a dedicated Liberal and devoted himself without stint to he waning fortunes of a party whose service brought few rewards. He was not only a forthright and effective speaker but also a first-rate administrator and the Liberal Party owed much to his zeal.

As leader of the Liberal peers he was held in high respect in the House of Lords – as also among those who had known him in the Commons – and played a responsible part in the handling of political business at Westminster.

Charles Frank Byers was born on July 24, 1915, the son of a Lloyds underwriter, at Lancing, Sussex. He was educated at Westminster School and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated with honours. He also distinguished himself at the university as a hurdler and in 1937 was awarded a Blue for athletics.

In the same year he was president of the university Liberal Club.

When the second world war began Byers enlisted in the Royal Artillery. He was commissioned in 1940 and later served on the staff of Field Marshal Montgomery, with the Eighth Army in the North African campaign and with 21 Army Group in North-West Europe. He was three times mentioned in despatches, was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour and awarded the Croix de Guerre, with palms. He left the Army holding the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was made OBE in 1944.

After the war he turned to politics and at the general election of 1945 he was elected Liberal member for North Dorset, which he won from the Conservatives. As one of the reduced group of a dozen Liberals in the new Parliament he quickly made his presence felt and by 1946 he had been appointed Liberal Chief Whip.

He held this post for four years and during that time he spent much effort in selecting and inspiring the 495 candidates sent to the polls by the Liberal Party in the general election of 1950. It was at this election that the party suffered a major electoral disaster, when only nine of its candidates were elected. Byers himself was among the defeated, losing his North Dorset seat – in a three-cornered fight – by 97 votes.

This ended his brief career in the House of Commons. He was defeated again at North Dorset in the general election of 1951 and when he contested a by-election at Bolton (East) in 1960 he was also defeated there.

It was not until he was made a life peer in 1964 at the age of 49 that Byers got back to Parliament. In the 14 years that had intervened he had combined business activities with strenuous administrative work and campaigning for the Liberal Party. He was chairman of the Party from 1950 to 1952, the party's campaign manager at general elections and an effective political broadcaster.

From 1965 to 1967 he was again chairman of the Liberal Party. In 1967, when Lord Rea resigned, Byers was elected leader of the Liberal peers, after a contest with Lord Wade. He then gave up the chairmanship of the Party and of its political directorate.

Byers was chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into athletics which reported in 1968 and recommended that there should be a single governing body, to be named the British Athletics Federation, for all sections of sport. He was sworn onto the Privy Council in 1972.

He married in 1939 to Joan Elizabeth Oliver – a fellow student of his Oxford days – by whom he had one son and three daughters.

MR EDWARD HALLIDAY

Mr Edward Halliday, CBE, who died on February 2 at the age of 81, was one of Britain's most prolific Royal portraitists and was a past President of both the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Royal Society of British Artists.

Though his was not a strikingly original talent his work was distinguished by what might be called artisitc commonsense, a commonsense typical of the British School at Rome where he had trained in his youth. His work was, consequently, notable for its grasp of pictorial strategy and tactics which stood him in good stead not only in the numerous Royal portraits he executed, but also in the many large scale murals and panels he did for various institutions and other semi public places, in the earlier part of his life.

Edward Irvine Halliday was born in Liverpool on October 7, 1902. He was educated at Liverpool College and studied at the Liverpool School of Art and the Royal College of Art. In 1925 he won a Prix de Rome for decorative painting and spent three years at the British School there.

From 1929 Halliday was a regular exhibitor at the Royal Academy, but, though he had great success as a portrait painter his strongest suit at this stage of his career really lay in the large panels and murals which he executed. At this date they included panels at the Athenaeum Club, Liverpool and in London a series of wall paintings of Chelsea figures down the ages for the then popular Good Intent restaurant in the King's Road.

A 90ft x 7ft mural above the swimming pool of the Dolphin Square mansion, which depicted the Thames from Hampton Court to Woolwich, with many witty details felicitously inserted, was also one of the better known London decorative projects of its day.

During the war he served with Bomber Command until seconded for special duties at the Foreign Office.

His career as a Royal portrait painter began in earnest after the war with a portrait of the then Princess Elizabeth for the Draper's Company in 1948. In the following year he painted her with Prince Philip and after her accession he painted the Queen on many occasions for various cities and regiments, ships, clubs and military and financial Institutions. Prince Philip was another favourite subject of his and he also painted the Prince of Wales and the Queen Mother.

He also painted a number of foreign heads of state and heads of government. He was appointed CBE in 1973.

He married, in 1928, Dorothy Lucy Hatswell. They had one son and one daughter.

MR JACK FANE

Jack Onslow Fane, the president of the British Boxing Board of Control, who died on February 5 at the age of 83, was one of the towering figures of the sport in this country and abroad.

He became a steward of the Board in 1930, was chairman from 1949 to 1975, and president from 1950. He was as well known in sporting circles as some of the British champions who boxed in his time.

His major achievements were the founding of two of the most influential controlling bodies in the world: the European Boxing Union in 1948 and the World Boxing Council in 1963. Fane was the first president of the EBU and remained as its head for 25 years.

Though offered the presidency of the WBC, he declined the post, feeling unable to do it justice as the headquarters was in Mexico City. He therefore became the council's vice-president.

Educated at Eton, he joined the Foreign Service and was an honorary attaché at the British Embassy in Berlin. He spoke French and German fluently.

Before the War, he was a gentleman farmer in Hampshire, where he made a name as an outstanding field sportsman. He joined the Royal Air Force and was a Squadron Leader in the Balloon Command during the war.

Fane was married twice and had two children.

LIEUT-COL E. G. BOXSHALL

Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. Boxshall, MBE, who died in London on January 26 aged 86, was an expert on Rumania whose special knowledge of that country was useful to the Special Operations Executive in the Second World War.

He was born in Bucharest, where his English father ran a small iron works, and never quite managed to lose his Rumanian accent; otherwise he was every inch – and he was over six feet tall – the English gentleman. He was assistant military attaché in Bucharest when Rumania was overrun by Germany late in 1916, and came to England eastabout across Russia in revolution. Soon after the war he returned to Bucharest, where he acted as an agent for various British firms.

In 1940, when SOE was formed, Boxshall's knowledge of Balkan personalities fully qualified him to join it, and he spent most of the war in Baker Street advising on SOE's affairs in south-eastern Europe.

His wife's father, Prince Barbu Stirbey, housed a left-behind SOE wireless transmitting set for a time, and came out to Cairo in May, 1944, for intricate talks about the circumstances in which Rumania could surrender unconditionally. These were still in progress when King Michael conducted a coup d'état in August and the Russians overran the country.

After the war, Boxshall became custodian of such of SOE's archives as survived. He kept rigidly to the rules of security in which he had been brought up, and guarded SOE's secrets fiercely. His memory and competence were such that he was still at work at 84.

He divorced Princess Stirbey in 1946 – she had borne him a son and a daughter. By his second wife, Mrs Joyce Britten-Jones, who died in 1974, he had no children.

Correction

In the obituary of Dorothy Lane published on January 19, Mrs Freeman should have been described as the mother, not the mother-in-law, of Mrs Dale

Science report

Radiocarbon dating comes of age

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

The first results from Oxford University's new radiocarbon dating equipment show that microscopic samples of material can yield valid dates useful to archaeologists.

One published discovery confirms a controversially early date from a cave site in South America, another demonstrates that an early site in Egypt did not have the world's earliest date-fruit, and a third shows that some fine Islamic doors in the Ashmolean Museum did not have recent restoration work, but were original.

The new dating method, using an accelerator mass spectrometer (AMS), differs from conventional radiocarbon dating in that it counts atoms of radioactive Carbon-14 rather than the decay products of radioactivity.

Since there are several million atoms for each one that decays, far smaller samples can be analysed than with the conventional method. The samples used at Oxford contain about five milligrams of carbon, derived from the original wood or other material by burning to carbon dioxide, converting to acetylene, and depositing the carbon as graphite on a tantalum wire.

Twenty samples can be tackled at once, usually comprising 12 "unknowns" for which dates are required, and eight standards and known-age samples. The carbon ions are accelerated to an energy of eight million electron volts in a tandem electrostatic accelerator and identified by a detector.

The number of ions of Carbon-14 present relative to the stable isotopes Carbon-12 and Carbon-13 forms the basis of the dating calculation, since half the Carbon-14 present in any sample decays over its half-life of some 5,700 years.

The very small samples needed means that individual grains of cereal, very small slivers of wood, or single threads of textile can be analysed. Results show that the margin of error is less than 300 years, even for samples dating to the end of the Ice Age more than 10,000 years ago.

The Oxford team has reported dates bearing on several different kinds of archaeological and art-historical problem. The objects scrutinised include a wooden dowel from Guitarrero Cave, Peru, dating to 10,000 years ago. The early date claimed for the cave has been challenged in recent years, but, the team says: "The direct dating of a wooden artefact shows actual human presence at this early date; this is much more difficult to question than stratigraphic associations."

At Wadi Kubbanuya in southern Egypt, where human occupation has been dated to more than 17,000 years ago by the AMS and the conventional Carbon-14 method, a date stone found in 1983 has been shown to be only 350 years old or less. The humic acids and the insoluble residue were both separately dated by the AMS method.

Two skeletons from Denmark were shown to be of Mesolithic date, one of them having no other independent evidence to date it at all, and human remains from Dorchester were shown to be neolithic in date, nearly 5,000 years old, although found within the area of a Roman cemetery.

Detection of restorations on fine furniture and other objets d'art can also be done, although in the case of the Islamic doors in the Ashmolean Museum both samples proved to be about 600 years old and part of the original inlay.

The Oxford team says that the benefits of the AMS method come from the ability to select the samples with the most direct cultural association or content.

Source: *Archaeometry*, (Vol 26, pp15-20, 1984).

THE ARTS

Galleries

The importance of a human dimension

Derek Jarman
ICA

The Capricious View
National Gallery

Axel Haig
Heinz

Raymond Myerscough-Walker
Architectural Association

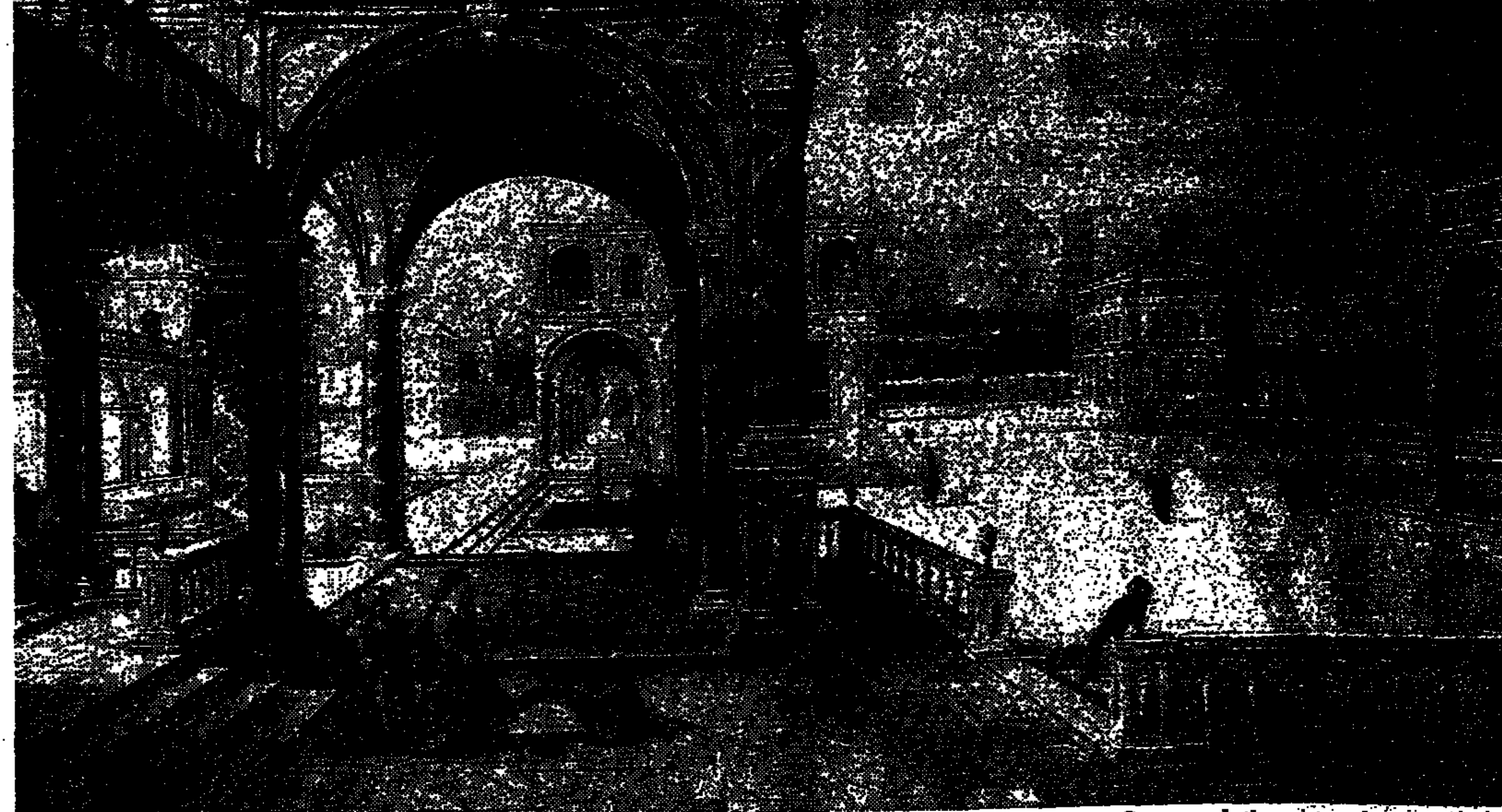
So many younger artists these days have such limitingly neat, orderly careers that it comes as something of a relief, and certainly a breath of fresh air, to encounter Derek Jarman at the ICA (until March 18) defending, as it seems, the artist's right to be untidy. Quite possibly this is not his intention: maybe he envies those who know exactly what their little square of ivory is and are content to work consistently at it. Whereas he flits from painting to writing to stage and film design to his own films and videos, so that you never know quite where his central preoccupation lies. In this he would seem to be a little like Rebecca Horn, still on show at the Serpentine. But she evidently has, at the back of all her experimenting, a good German housewife's determination to waste nothing and make the most of every last scrap, so that sculptures turn up in films and films give rise to photo-installations and so on. Jarman just lets it all pour out.

But then, what it is to have so many talents to spare, so that you do not mind if some of them run to waste. The ICA showing includes all his films and most of his videos (phone them to find out what is showing when), as well as the two films he designed for Ken Russell, of which *The Devils* in particular amazes at a distance of 13 years by its unblinking use of Post-Modern settings at a time when the architectural movement had hardly even begun to define itself. But, unlike many who by training think in architectural terms, Jarman does not, in his other artworks, ignore the human dimension.

His most recent paintings feature large nude figures along with hermetic symbols and the odd *memento mori* ("reminiscent of Caravaggio" in the accompanying notes is going a bit too far, though the general drift of the observation is clear enough) – unless, as parts of the installation *G.B.H.*, they are free fantasias on the map of Britain. The earlier works on show include fantastically painted or assembled cape-like garments and some tiny architectural landscapes scattered with even tinier red figures. Always, even in the smallest, a sense of vast spaces – but spaces always peopled, crowded almost to bursting with the contradictions of human life.

The other day one of our leading figurative artists was expressing to me concern, if not outright alarm, about the work of the fashionable German painter Anselm Kiefer, such as the large, vaguely Wagnerian interior at present on show at the Tate among the new acquisitions. It was, he maintained, a very disturbing development, quite without precedent in the history of art, that Kiefer and several others today were apparently dedicated to reflecting the outside world of appearances – landscapes, interiors – without *ever* including a human figure. I am not quite clear why this is so worrying, even in 1984. It might, after all, be interpreted as a moral stance: if every prospect pleases, and only man is vile, then why not exclude him? It might even be something as simple as a way of disguising a technical weakness when it comes to figure drawing.

All the same, a group of exhibitions this week make it clear that in one particular my painter has some reason on his side. In general, artists of the past who were primarily interested in architecture seem always to have required the human figure to lend emotional interest, or just to create a sense of scale. The townscapes in the National Gallery's small but delightful show **The Capricious View** (until March 18) are nearly all imaginary, in the honourable tradition of the architectural caprice, and when, towards the end of the period covered, there are real views of Venice by Canaletto and Guardi the notes suggest that after all Venice iteself was always something of a fantasy city, an architectural caprice in three dimensions. And always, in the midst of these invented ruins, or threatened by François de Nomé's toppling towers, are people, going about their everyday business or admiring the scene their presence validates.



Virtuosity of perspective and illusion in *Courtyard of a Renaissance Palace* by Hendrick van Steenwyck the younger

In any case, a consuming interest in buildings, and a desire if need be to invent one's own, does not seem all that unreasonable in an artist. If they are not Man, at least they are the work of Man, and signify his presence and the mark he has made on the world. Admittedly, these caprices are deliberately lightweight, decorative works, intended primarily to delight the eye rather than move the emotions. They also offer – and here may be the secret spring of Kiefer's work – a chance to exercise virtuosity in the management of perspective and the creation of an illusionistic space, as well as the fantasy involved in actually inventing buildings that never were. It is noticeable that in the earlier pieces, by Hendrick van Steenwyck the younger and Dirck van Delen, both dating from the practical seventeenth century, the inventions are such as architects of the time might actually be building, while once we get into the romanticizing eighteenth the cult of ruins and elegant melancholy are uppermost.

By the time we get round to Axel Haig, grandly revived in a show at the RIBA's Heinz Gallery until February 25, the romanticizing has taken a very different turn. Haig was in fact a journeyman architectural draughtsman early in his career: when he arrived in Britain from his native Sweden he rapidly became William Burges's right-hand man, imaginatively evoking his major projects in mouth-watering watercolours intended to inspire the confidence and open the purses of competition committees and already half-persuaded patrons. That, after all, is what the respected if minor art of the architectural perspectivist is all about.

But this subordinate role did not long satisfy Haig. He soon found that he could effectively turn his particular technical and imaginative gifts to other, independent purposes. And so he became one of the most sought-after etchers of his day, entirely with architectural studies, real and imagined. Or, perhaps most frequently, a combination of the two. If you compare his most apparently realistic scenes with their originals on the spot, you find that he is quite capable of putting a hill where no hill is in order to enhance the drama of a scene. Many of his pictures of houses and churches in Britain are given an air of historical reconstruction by the human figures, who are as often as not dressed in the costumes of the past, or at least in carefully noncommittal garb such as a monk's habit or traditional peasant wear.

The show is subtitled "The Victorian Vision of the Middle Ages", as is the accompanying book by J. Mordaunt Crook and C. A. Lennox-Boyd in Allen and Unwin's admirable *Genius of Architecture* series (£10.95; £4.95 paperback). And one need only look at this selection of Haig's best-selling prints, which start in 1877 and go on, amazingly, until 1919, to see just how influential this back-room boy of the later Gothic Revival must have been in training eyes and minds.

Even in our own day the art of the architectural perspectivist is not dead – though to look at the unencouraging images presented on the hoardings of most new building sites one could be forgiven for wondering if it is not moribund. At least the show devoted to Raymond Myerscough-Walker at the Architectural Association until Saturday shows that one of its leading twentieth-century practitioners is still very much alive and kicking. Myerscough-Walker was also himself a qualified architect, but his skill in the imaginative presentation of other men's ideas was so remarkable that most of his time in the Thirties seems to have been taken up with producing glamorous (if not necessarily glamorized) visions of buildings-to-be.

But Myerscough-Walker got tired of his easy success in this demanding but finally subordinate discipline, and the war provided a convenient excuse for him to become an early drop-out. He went, in what we would now call hippy-style, to live in the depths of the Sussex countryside. Though he did a few architectural perspectives for old friends in the Fifties, he devoted himself principally to living his life the way he wanted and, like Haig, producing original art-works. In his case they were, if truth be told, rather awful abstact or semi-abstract paintings.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Children in slavery

"These young girls, they just keep working and working and never complain", said Mr Bundit, manager of a Bangkok sweatshop, unaware that his managerial pride was being taped by Granada's World in Action team. Posing as British buyers, they toured several of these sweatshops where girls of 12, 13, 14 and 15 – 15 is the Thai legal age – work 15 and 16-hour days and, if there is a rush order, all night to provide clothing for leading British companies.

Rags to Riches last night pointed a finger at Littlewoods, Debenhams, Woolworths, C & A and Great Universal Stores. Littlewoods, said the reporter Ed Harriman, were looking into it; GUS had said they were stopping shipments until they had investigated. But Mr Michael Parkinson, a former buying agent in Bangkok for leading British firms, said it was impossible for them to be unaware of the conditions as their own buyers visited the factories. Some stayed at the Peninsula Hotel, which charged £140 a day and where, said Mr Harriman, a small beer cost £1.60, more than a girl could earn by working all night.

Granada used concealed cameras and microphones and wired Thai girls to talk to the employees. They told of sleeping over their machines, beatings, guards and confinement. Dormitories, in some cases over the workshops, were ill-equipped and crowded.

Thai girls, unable to be supported by their parents, flock to Bangkok. Many are exploited in prostitution; others find an alternative in the sweatshops. The clothes they make, said Mr Harriman, giving instances, are marked up 300 per cent and more by British firms. In the last eight years imports from Bangkok had increased one-hundredfold. During that period the British clothing and knitting industry had been cut by a third. More than 150,000 had lost their jobs. David Darlow produced this chilling piece of reportage.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Wondrous rapport

Ballerina
Churchill, Bromley

This is a real find. From an unexpected source – Norway – comes this carefully observed and finely written study of a family under stress from the problem of an autistic child. What could have been reportage becomes art, what could have been a mere weepie becomes tragedy, and in Peter Coe's production both direction and performances rise to the occasion: . Dorothy Tutin and Tamara Steele give the two tremendous central roles, mother and daughter, star performances whose relation to the whole is perfectly judged.

The 70-year-old author, Arne Skouen (himself the father of a psychotic girl), shows a classic well-made-play skill in picking a moment of crisis that enables him to telescope an entire drama into 90 minutes. (No translator is credited, but the writing is so concentrated that at times you hardly dare breathe.) The family is having a rare reunion: when Malin was eight, her ex-ballerina mother walked out with her to a mountain house: for ten years since, trips to town (as now, for medical check-ups) have been few and reluctant. Having created a world devoted to her child and established communication with her, Mother suddenly finds herself facing deafness and their only neighbours moving away, depriving them of their lifeline just as winter approaches.

Her inability to grasp, or refusal to face, the consequences is an eerie echo of the autistic child's own withdrawal. Convincing herself tht she has persuaded Malin's former nurse to rejoin them, she rebuffs her former husband's plea to put the girl in a home. You cannot doubt he is right, yet you cannot accept it, contrasting the suave Aubrey Woods's well-meaning blunders with Miss Tutin's detailed, loving rapport with her daughter. So complete is Miss Steele's performance that you begin to understand Malin's "language" yourself: the floating balletic movements of pleasure and contentment, the seizures of terror at "bad thoughts", visibly disposed of by her mother. It is a remarkable partnership.

The use of ballet motifs as imagery is selfconscious, and the denouement can be glimpsed too early. But even the smallest parts are flourishing and true: he successful son (Peter Bourke) oscillating between guilt and resentment, the horror-struck nurse (Karen Ford) realizing the sacrifice expected of her, even the hotel chambermaid (Vivienne Ross) whose bitter memory of a friend's deliberate suicide with her autistic son grows stealthily in significance. Marty Flood's lovely transparent set encompasses an amiably old-fashioned hotel, the longed-for mountains and the inner room where Malin squats brooding, full of the thoughts that only one other person understands.

Anthony Masters



Perfect proportion: Tamara Steele

Hot Time
Jackson's Lane

Still within living memory (though not for much longer), the General Strike seems ideal for documentary-collage theatre with eye-witness accounts. That forms the basis of Common Stock's show – using the five-strong permanent company plus their youth theatre group drawn largely from Hammersmith jobless, with Bryony Lavery acting as *Dramaturg*.

Angry irony at the lack of worker solidarity is intended as a backbone for a scrapbook-for-1926 concertion. In Italy Mussolini, in America the Marx Brothers: "it is a time", smirks the moustachioed Clare McIntyre as a prissy Hungarian, "vere anyzing might heppen". This is such ominous stuff as parodies are made on. Though the youth company clearly welcome a weahh of cameos, building a show that way needs care. This ragbag raises suspicions that the mere act of distinguishing between good ideas and bad was shunned as elitism.

Nuggets surface unexpectedly: Jane Ollier's intricate lecture on how to ensure that her ladyship's bathwater is hot, Rebecca Burrill reminding workers with French disdain that whatever they achieve their wives still cook the dinner. But with few exceptions (like Frank Rendles's ominously quiet little Scottish private) Jennie Buckman's cast can only show that you are never too young to play cardboard characters. What can you do with George V's national speech delivered with Richard III's hump, or a sermon declaring "If God had intended the working class to be united, he would have made you all Siamese twins"?

As we saw in *Calamity* the other week, giving a play shape or construction is not one of Ms Lavery's strong points, and the ideas are not exactly unfamiliar. The hand-to-mouth attitude does not help: hard to accept police as sinister when a mugging line of them has just made comical dashes over the stage. But, if further work is possible during the six-week tour, there could be more images as telling as the Hungarian and Frenchwoman on the park bench, smiling at these Britons who are supposedly never slaves but always come back as obediently as the birds they feed.

Anthony Masters

Concerts

Assault without aggression

Emil Gilels
Festival Hall

The only small disappointment for Emil Gilels's sizable audience on Sunday afternoon was his refusal to play an encore. But he had just ended a two-hour programme with one of the most taxing keyboard sonatas ever written, Beethoven's *Hammerklavier*. It was unjust of us to ask for more.

As reviews of his recent recording of this work have suggested, it is a reading very much his own, a reading majestically spacious and strong yet at the same time laying more emphasis on Beethoven as seer than stormer of high heaven. Unhurried tempo and loving cantabile certainly ensured that the first movement emerged more benign than explosive.

The Scherzo was distinguished by lightness of texture and less spiky accentuation than often heard. The Adagio brought two climaxes of searing urgency within a conception of the sublimest simplicity. And, even if less than elemental in thrust, the finale found Mr Gilels's fingers triumphant in fugal clarification and control. Never at any time was his assault aggressive. Always he produced the mellowest tone.

Sharing the first half, his Scriabin and Prokofiev were also as enjoyable for his beauty and variety of sonority as for his total musical commitment – not least in the five hauntingly potent short Preludes, Op 74, with which Scriabin bade the world farewell.

Details such as the repeated notes of No 1 and the trickling descending semiquaver motif of No 2 were exquisitely telling. The intensity compressed into the striving first movement of the much earlier Third Sonata was no less memorable. For Prokofiev's Third Sonata, Mr Gilels rightly emerged from shadows into bright sunlight, yet still in its second subject allowed the instrument to show how beautifully it can sing.

Joan Chissell

LSO/Mata
Festival Hall

Give a teenaged pianist as talented as Dmitris Sgouros a work as outrageously demanding as Rachmaninov's Third Concerto and he will astonish everyone (as indeed a few months ago he did) with his mature insight as well as his technical prowess. Substitute Mozart's D minor Piano Concerto, K466, and the young man faces a problem: how to play a work that demands a knowledge of darker, more adult things in life than Sgouros can possibly have yet experienced.

Fortunately, Sgouros already is no ordinary pianist, and so it seemed quite natural that we should think of the piece differently in his performance with the London Symphony Orchestra under Eduardo Mata. Any worries over the necessary idiosyncracies of his reading were overcome by his ingenuous confidence, so that the superbly controlled veiled quality of the first movement forced us almost to forget the absence of its inner tensions.

Equally, Sgouros charmed his audience with his shaping of Mozart's phrases in the opening pages of the middle movement, his poise matched by an exquisite tone. But his pace in the central section made for an uncomfortable transition at the reprise, dissipating much of the momentum. Perhaps by way of conscious compensation, the finale took off like a rocket, and Sgouros allowed himself a touch of flamboyance with his flourish at the fermata and with an unashamedly extrovert cadenza (by Beethoven). Such gestures served to reassure one that behind this miraculous playing there still lies a child's mind.

If only his accompanists, heavy-footed here and so disdainful of detail in Schubert's Third Symphony that the work simply died, could have shown half of his liveliness of mind. They were fortunate to have chosen to end with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, which though peppered with roughnesses (the horns were often the culprits, and the first oboe made an unlovely sound) still managed to end with a brash and frantic exuberance.

Stephen Pettitt

Music Projects
Riverside

Concertos were not originally displays of megalomaniac temperament by romantic soloists pitted against vast orchestras, and the twentieth century has reverted, in many examples of the genre, to the original notion of a "concerted" piece by a group of equals. Sunday's neatly programmed concert by Music Projects/London in its "New Images of Sound" series juxtaposed four examples of the genre.

The inspiration of three of them, to some more or less remote degree, must have been Webern's Op 24 Concerto, which was conducted with nicely rounded shapes and a good sense of line by Richard Bernas, but came out sounding oddly spiky, not quite coherent. Most interesting was the new work, *Essay in Radiance* by Richard Barrett; it is rare these days for a composer to admit in his programme note that his music is "doomed to qualified failure", yet I did not think Barrett's failure to commiunicate his ambitious philosophical notions any more grave than that of many of his colleagues.

Indeed, the flamboyant alternations of furious activity and repose, between a noisy electronic organ, pairs of clarinets and two virtuosic percussionists, and the gentle additional colourings of violin, cello and flute, were often powerful and striking, even if they did not quite add up at one hearing.

That work was performed with evident commitment. In Ligeti's Chamber Concerto the carefully calculated sonic effects sounded regrettably rough-edged, and in Xenakis's *Atrées*, one of his less successful essays in the manipulation of limited material, tension lapsed between sections and the result was dry.

Nicholas Kenyon

CBSO/Rattle
Festival Hall

"This, if anything of mine, is worth your memory": Elgar appropriated Ruskin's words to his *Gerontius*, and they could have been applied in turn to Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra performance in general and Dame Janet Baker's Angel in particular. In a sold-out Festival Hall, a ripple of nearly 84 years of accumulated expectation from the work's Birmingham première was met by a vibrant sense of occasion in a performance of unusual wholeness, in spite of – even because of – its flaws.

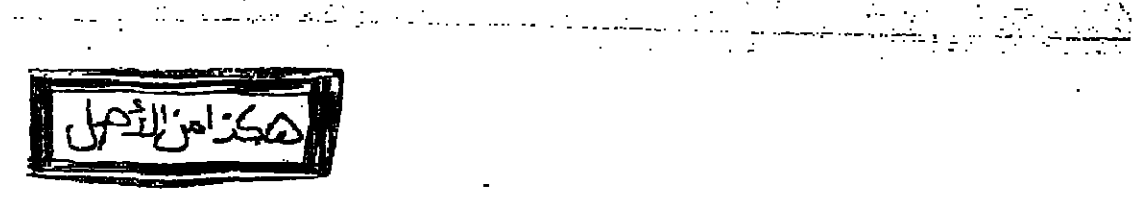
No disinterested observer could have failed to be thrown, for example, by the ill-judged vocal expressionism where sustained expression failed in the longer stretches of Dennis Bailey's Gerontius. Yet this was very much part of an essential and valuably individual quality in his characterization: a searingly imagined projection of the unknown areas of the unconscious and subconscious that, in the opening and in dialogue with the Angel, reached us in artfully controlled timbres of fear and confusion.

Neither was it possible to ignore Willard White's rhythmically over-relaxed Priest and Angel of the Agony, warmly humane but lacking a hieratic quality. Both physical and spiritual humanity, both immediacy and strange distance, were held in equipoise by Dame Janet in one of her most deeply integrated and instinctive performances, each note weighed in the balance and not one word found wanting.

Rattle's orchestra and the London Choral Society, with its excellently sifted and positioned semi-chorus, felt the work's pulse equally acutely, even if their vivid pointing of Elgar's dramatic emphases came at times at the expense of such a fully achieved sense of evolving transformation.

Hilary Finch

● Oliver Knussen has been appointed composer-in-residence by the Philharmonia Orchestra, which he has recently conducted on a number of occasions. His first work specifically for the orchestra will be his Fourth Symphony.



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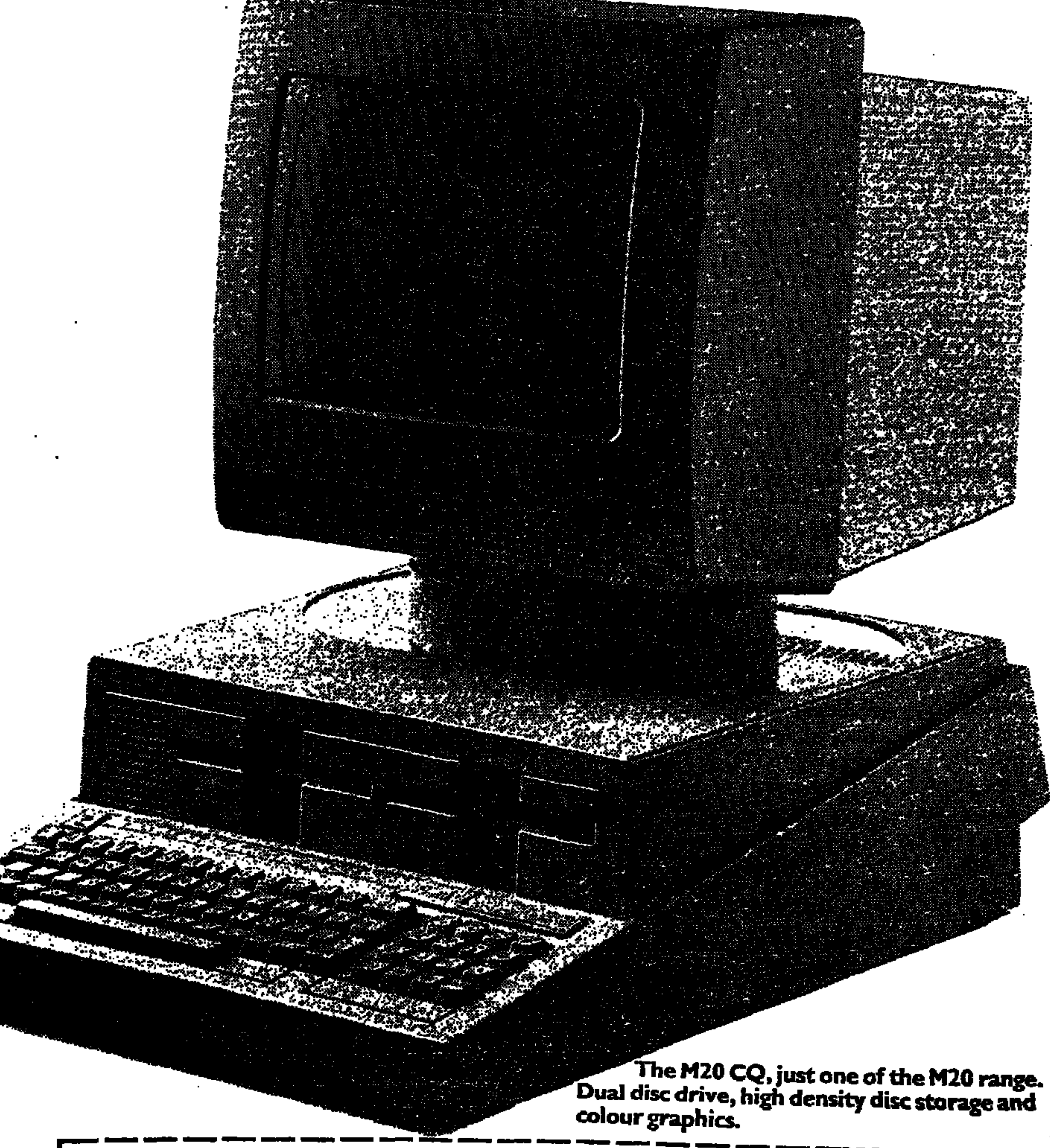
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● Italian chip investment in Britain COMPUTER HORIZONS ● On Page 20: Secrets of the second set

10 micros to be won in our new national contest



All-Britain hunt for prize ideas

There are still more than three weeks to go in which to put together your ideas for our new competion, the National Microcomputer Challenge, which is open to all readers of The Times.

The aim of the competition is to find the best original use of a microcomputer for a socially useful purpose, such as a novel computer program or an innovative use of a computer peripheral. Ideas may involve any type of project using hardware or software and any type of microcomputer.

The competition will be in two stages – regional and national. All the entrants need to do at the first stage is to submit in no more than 1,000 words a proposal describing the project and its benefits and ensure that the entry is accompanied by twelve differently dated mastheads from the front of *The Times* – that is, the title at the top of Page One with the date below it.

Judging will take place in ten regions and the winner in each region will receive a BBC Microcomputer Model B, provided by Acorn Computers. There will be a second prize of a £50 W. H. Smith voucher and a £30 voucher for third prize. Closing date for entries is March 2.

The Department of Trade and Industry has agreed to host the ten judging sessions at its regional offices. Other judges will be nominated by the British Computer Society and Acorn Computers.

The second stage will be the national final in which the ten regional winners will be asked to demonstrate their ability to put their proposals into practice, making use of a microcomputer. It is emphasized that entrants will not, for example, be expected to provide a complete professional program or working model, but only to give some evidence of the practicability of their original idea.

The national judging and prizegiving will take place on April 18 as part of the London Computer Festival and the results published in Computer Horizons on May 1. First prize, provided by Acorn Computers, will be a full BBC Microcomputer Model B, disc storage system, and either a 14 inch colour video monitor or a "Sparkjet" printer. The second prize will be a £100 W H Smith voucher for goods and third prize a £50 voucher.

You may enter as an individual or as a representative of a project group for a club, school, college or company. If you represent a group, you will be required to provide the name of the person responsible for the group. The prizes, therefore, may be won by an individual or on behalf of a group. If any winner already has a BBC microcomputer, Acorn Computers have agreed to substitute any other item from the BBC microcomputer system or Acornsoft programs of a similar value.

Some ideas

As a guide to those still seeking a purpose for their entries, there are many opportunities, for instance, for helping the handicapped. Examples:

● A speech generator that can read text;
● Keyboards enabling the physically handicapped to type;
● Simple robotics of a fetch-and-carry nature;
● Hardware making communications easier for those with hearing or sight problems.

Other subject areas are corner-shop businesses requiring simple, low-priced stock control programs; advice bureaux needing readily-understood programs possibly using information channels; and the training of unemployed youngsters in new skills.

The possibilities are endless and many familiar areas are open to novel ideas. The only limitation – apart from length – is in the mind of the competitor.

Complete details of the competition and further entry forms may be obtained at W. H. Smith shops selling computers and software, or in writing from the competition address:

The Times National Computer Challenge, 43 Bedford Row, London WC99.

The 10 regions

1. Scotland; 2. Northern Ireland & North West (Northern Ireland, Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester); 3. North East (Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear); 4. Yorkshire & Humberside (Yorkshire); 5. Midlands (Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Hereford, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Metropolitan County); 6. Wales; 7. South West (Cornwall, Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire; Devon, Somerset, Dorset; 8. Home Counties North (Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk); 9. Home Counties South (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Surrey, Sussex); 10. Greater London.

The data Bill: A case for closer scrutiny

Today begins the committee stage of one of the most controversial Bills ever to attempt passage through the House of Commons and although its content has been culled from more than 20 years' experience, many of its critics, among them doctors, lawyers, and social workers, consider it to be inadequate for its purpose.

The subject is the Data Protection Bill which fell victim to the timing of an early election in the summer of last year and was re-introduced to parliament this session. Governments, both Conservative and Labour, have studied the matter of Data Protection but all have shied from introducing legislation. The present effort appears to be the bare minimum required by the European Convention, thus enabling British companies to transfer data across national boundaries.

The data concerned is personal. The new law will provide a mechanism whereby a person – the subject of the computer information – will have the right to see that information while the operator of such computer systems will be required to register and declare his purpose.

The powers that the Home Secretary would acquire through legislation are a matter of controversy. So are the exemptions outlined in the legislation. These exemptions mean that an individual will be refused access to his or her own records if the data is held for the purposes of "the prevention or detecion of crimes: the apprehension or prosecution of offenders; the assessment or collection of any tax or duty".

The legislation has been termed "a fraud on the public" by the National Council for Civil Liberties.

According to the NCCL: "Neither the professional nor the client in a confidential relationship need even know that personal information has been transferred to outsiders. Far from being a Data Protection provision, it is more a licence for the collection and the transfer of information in any case where authorities can argue that there is any police or national security interest in the file."

Those criticisms are valid. The legislation is not supposed to provide a method of policing how information is kept and processed but the type of information contained on file and who has access to it. The only reason why computers have even entered the picture is because they have made it possible for sensitive data to be easily accessed by hundreds of people from locations thousands of miles apart and in many instances leaving little evidence that they have done so. Last week a summary of those criticisms was sent by the NCCL to more than 90 MPs.

The British Medical Association has been particularly concerned about how the police could access personal medical data. According to the Bill, the police file may not be subject to the scrutiny of the Data Protection code.

The BMA concentrated most of its opposition on the provision which allows medical computer records to be examined for the purposes of crime prevention or detection. It said: "A patient's notes could be transferred to the police by a third person without either the patient's or the doctor's knowledge or consent. The information might be held indefinitely".

The proper questions have not been addressed by the Bill. Any legislation adequately providing protection must cater for information held on manual filing systems making allowance for the time when super intelligent computers are able to read directly from any document.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

More than 90 per cent of doctor's medical records are held on manual systems. Virtually all records held by colleges, schools or educational authorities are in the same form. This legislation offers the individual no access or protection when the records are held manually, yet the information could be processed by a computer having optically read the manual file.

The role to be played by government is equally questionable. For more than 20 years governments have been concerned at how best to introduce this legislation and are still frightened to subject their own computer systems to the inspection of third parties. For government, one of the principal employers of computers in Britain, to have power under the Home Secretary to exempt it from such scrutiny without public redress, is disturbing.

Parliamentary concern arose in 1961 when Lord Mancroft introduced a Bill in the House of Lords on private affairs. Two other private members' bills were introduced to the House of Commons in 1967 and 1969.

A committee was subsequently created to study the subject under the chairmanship of Kenneth Younger. The Younger Committee reported in 1972. Three years later and two white papers later, the Labour Government established another study group under the chairmanship of Sir Norman Lindop. The committee reported in 1978. It was not until 1982 that the present administration responded to the Lindop report with the publication of a white paper. That paper became the basis for the legislation now being steered through parliament.

Two of the principal Lindop recommendations which were to ensure government's impartiality were ignored or rejected by government when drawing up legislation. Lindop recommended no exemptions for police records and that any granted because of national security should be subject to investigation by a Data Protection Authority.

The police have received their exemption and no authority will be created. Owners of computer data banks carrying the sensitive information will instead be required to register with the Registrar of Data Protection, created by the new Bill.

The political waverings of the past two decades indicate that the impetus for the legislation did not come from the British government. It came from Europe. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe agreed a convention for the protection of computerised personal data in the autumn of 1980. The European parliament in 1982 called on its members to adopt the convention.

By July the following year 21 countries including USA, Australia, Japan and most of Europe introduced privacy legislation or were in the process of doing so. Britain is now slowly, reluctantly, and some say inadequately, attempting to redress that balance.

The advances now being made in computer design where optical character reading of even the most illegible doctor's handwriting could prove possible, may make the current legislation obsolete overnight, unless adequate provision is made to include manual records in the legislation.

An exasperated Lord Swinfen, in the House of Lords last year, exclaimed that government advisors did not seem to understand what a modern computer could do.

Government advisors know only too well what computers can do, which is why their exemption list in this Bill is so generously self-indulgent.

A free goodie in the bundle

BRIEFING

■ As the pace hots up in the market for small business systems, the question now being asked by the first-time buyer is not what is the best buy in hardware, but rather, what is the most attractive package of "free" software that is being bundled with the new machine, *writes Geoffrey Ellis.*

With machines being launched almost weekly, it is often the choice of software that can tip the scales in a newcomers favour. It is an enticing proposition to get around £500 worth of utility packages given with your machine.

Using this technique, two manufacturers have just released their new machines on to a hungry market; the British built WREN, and the Japanese SANYO both offer a variety of word processing, accounting and office management packages.

Sanyo, with their new MBC550 micro are giving the popular Wordstar word processing program, plus Calcstar, and with the MBC555, are adding the spelling check program, Spellstar, Mailmerge Infostar, Reportstar, Supersort and Datastar. Selling at £700 the 550 has a single 5.25 inch disk drive with a capacity of 160K. Using MS/DOS and the 8088 processor, this machine, and the 555 with twin drives (and double the capacity) selling at £900 will both run a substantial amount of IBM PC compatible software.

The Wren, distributed by Prism, and built by Thorn EMI, is a sophisticated $1000 machine, designed for sale to the businessman who is a computer novice, and weighing under twenty pounds, is reasonably portable.

It has an integral seven inch amber screen, two 5.25 inch disk drives giving 400K capacity, 64K of RAM, expandable to 256K, and an auto dial modem, which allows instant access to Prestel, Micronet, and other viewdata systems.

Three of the software packages are by Perfect. Their Writer, Calc and Filer make a useful business package, and coupled with a package called Executive desktop – which, operating from a familiar menu, provides diary, notepad, calculator and automatic telephone dialler – should allow a business user to move easily into the era of computers and electronic data transmission.

■ The long-awaited new computer from Apple, the Macintosh, has, it seems, been launched not a moment too soon. On the day selected for a joint US-European launch, the company reported a huge drop in earnings, atttributable, it says, to a hard price war.

Apple has invested heavily, spending 80 million dollars on R & D, and 20 million dollars on a new factory. The new machine, using the 32-bit system developed for LISA, is aimed directly at the IBM personal computer buyer, and is offering the now familiar windows, pull-down menus and mouse. Ease of use is one of the big selling points, and, to this end, there is a forty-minute audio training session included in the pack, which should allow the novice user to set to work almost immediately.

The main unit, which has a desk footprint of only 10 inches square, contains a nine-inch black and white monitor, a single 3½-inch disk drive holding 400K, and weighs less than some "portables", at only seventeen pounds. Macintosh has 129K of RAM and 64K of ROM.

■ After resisting the trend toward bundling, Epson have at last come off the fence and will be offering an inclusive package, consisting of the desktop QX10, RX80T printer and three packs from Peachtree, handling word processing (with 20,000 word spelling check dictionary,) mailing list manager, and Peachdale, a financial planning program. They will be selling this system at a discount of almost £600, thus joining the ranks of the give-away manufacturers.

■ Two hotels in the People's Republic of China are to use British-developed software. CHAMPS, the hotel management system acquired by Software Sciences last year, has been installed in the Great Wall Hotel in Canton and the Lido Hotel at Peking airport.

CHAMPS (Computerised Hotel Accounting Management Processing System) handles not only guest billing, but also marketing statistics, reservations, foreign exchange, telephone monitoring, and several other hotel requirements. It is designed for large hotels, usually with hundreds of bedrooms – the Great Wall has 560, and the Lido 2,150.

China is the latest country to produce business for Software Sciences. "We developed CHAMPS to be the most comprehensive hotel system on the market," says general manager Tony Lucas, "and it is now serving hotel chains the world over."

'And this is the portable version . . .'

UK Events

The Apricot & Sirius Show, Kensington & Chelsea Town Hall, February 7-9.
International Home Computers Let '84, Heathrow Penta, February 13-15.
Information Technology & Office Automation Exhibition and Conference, Barbican Centre, London, EC1, February 21-24.
Computer Trade Show, Wembley Conference Centre, March 13-15.
Electron and BBC Users' Show, Westminster Exhibition Centre, March 29-April 1.

Overseas

Personal Business Computer Show, Hong Kong, February 29-March 3.
Securiom '84, *Worldwide Congress* on Computer and Communications Security and Protection, the Palais des Festivals, Cannes, February 29-March 2.
International Business Equipment & Computer Show, Singapore, March 13-17.
Personal Computer Show, Sydney, Australia, March 14-17.

Slight hitch on the lake

■ After flying a dozen British journalists to their factory, German computer manufacturer CTM caused consternation in their ranks by failing to deliver the promised information, writes Geoffrey Ellis.

The purpose of the trip was partly to announce the setting up of a British dealership to distribute their new 32-bit CTM 9032 multi-user system. But it was discovered that the contract with the prospective British company had not been signed.

Top-level discussions continued into the night, but as the sun rose over Lake Constance it was apparent from a rescheduled press conference that the required signing had not taken place.

The new machine, which can handle up to 48 intelligent decentralized work stations, will be upgraded with a new Motorola chip later this year, offering increased graphics and colour.

CTM are keen to move into the United Kingdom market, filling the £10,000-£15,000 slot.

24-hour guide to the car market

By Frank Brown

Motorists should expect a better service from car dealers following the launching last week of a Viewdata service for the car trade by the publishers of Glass's Guide, the car trade's monthly car-price 'Bible'.

The service, called Gladiator, complements the well-known Guide and is aimed at executives in dealerships, second-hand car firms, fleet operators and other sectors of the trade. It operates around the clock and provides them with up-to-the minute market information.

The database is held on British Telecom's Prestel system and is run as a 'closed user group', Viewdata jargon which means that access to the database is limited to a select group – in this case, Gladiator subscribers.

To establish exactly what kinds of market information executives in the car trade need for decision making and business planning, Glass carried out a 15 month study, working with manufacturers and dealers.

As a result, Gladiator provides a much wider range of market information than that published in the monthly guide, or tradionally available from Glass's other services. Some 1,000 pages of data are available, and this is being increased daily as new information is collated.

Categories of information include new car prices, auctions, statistics/market reports, official car performance figures, a diary of trade events, a 'stop press' section of news items, and a list of manufacturers and comissionaires.

The statistical information provided covers new and used car business, including historical as well as the latest figures available, so that users can quickly prepare sales plans. The sales and residual values of key cars can also be selected.

Other pages include an advertising section for trade buyers willing to underwrite various makes or models of vehicles, and a 'how to contact Glass' section which enables subscribers to send messages to Glass, either supplying or requesting information, day or night.

All pages are constantly updated. On the first day, for example, subscribers were able to access 30 pages of information on Ford's latest price changes within hours of the changes being announced.

Gladiator is being offered to the 55,000 subscribers of Glass's

Continued on page 20

Strong man from Sicily brings chips to Bucks

By Maggie McLening

Italian semiconductor manufacturer SGS is to open a chip development centre in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, that is likely to bring more than just an investment of 2 billion lira to the UK.

If the company's extraordinary turnround in fortunes over the past three years is anything to go by, Aylesbury will also be witnessing one of the toughest styles of management to emerge from the notoriously unprofitable group of European manufacturers; and one that achieves success.

SGS, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Italian Financial Company for Telecommunications, STET, had been unprofitable for 11 years until December, when it managed to get into the black. The climb back was remarkable because it was mainly achieved during the years when the chips industry suffered its major crises, caused by slumps due to over-production of RAM (random Access memory) chips.

With subsidiaries in Germany, Italy, Malta, Malaysia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA, SGS Group invests 14 per cent of its tunover in research and development. The main laboratories are sited in Agrate, Castalletto and Catania but design centres have recently been opened in Grafing, Germany, and Phoenix, Arizona. A manufacturing plant is also due to be opened in Phoenix, so there is a strong possibility of a similar move in Aylesbury.

SGS is one of the world's leading suppliers of linear circuit and power transistor products, although it also has a small stake in the more widely publicised MOS (Metal Oxide Semiconductor) market, as a second-source supplier of Zilog Z80 and Z8000 ranges. There is also a joint development agreement with Toshiba, for CMOS (Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) chips.

Pistorio . . . Sack for the absentees, warnings to others

The group's recent move into profitability and worldwide expansion is directly attributable to its Sicilian-born president, Pascuale Pistorio. When Pistorio joined SGS, after leaving Motorola in 1980, turnover was 146 billion lira, with a loss of 32 billion lira on sales. Last year, turnover reached 350 billion lira and SGS broke even, with its first profits in December: the result of trimming the fat but sustaining investment levels, according to Pistorio.

His first act was controversial – he sacked all employees with a record of more than 50 per cent absenteeism over the previous three years, and issued warnings to the entire work force. Despite the strong Italian trade union movement, he managed to reduce the total staff at Catania from 2,100 to 600 and claims that sales are now four times as high.

"In the United States, I could have cut immediately and the company would have been profitable two days after," said Pistorio. "But in Italy, it took two years. High technology always suffers most in a society that doesn't foster creativity. The best countries are now the United States and United Kingdom; the worst France and Italy."

Pistorio had stipulated to the Italian government that SGS would be run on the same concepts as a private enterprise. When he accepted the presidency, he announced an ambitious five-year plan to transform its fortunes.

"The first phase was to go into the black, otherwise we would have been a parasitic institution burning money: a business should put in resources and get more out. The second aim was to become one of the good, solid participants in the world of business – within the top 15 world suppliers of semiconductors, aiming to be a billion-dollar company by 1988."

A key point in his strategy was to direct marketing outside Europe, which accounts for only 20 per cent of world consumption of semiconductors; the US taking a 50 per cent share. In 1982, 70 per cent of SGS's revenues came from Europe: and the remainder mainly from the US and Asia. Pistorio aims to readjust the balance to only 50 per cent from Europe by 1985, with a higher proportion from the US market as a top priority.

"One of the major mistakes of European manufacturers in the past was not to attack the external markets to Europe. This restricted them to only a small part of the world and meant that they failed to recoup their research and development expenditure, making them unprofitable for many years", he commented. "Observers cry that Europe is dead, but forgetting the micro industry means accepting the loss of electronics generally, and Europe cannot afford to sell history. It is possible and mandatory to succeed."

Computer Appointments

The problem that disappears

By Roger Woolnough

Computer people call it the problem of the disappearing problem. It can take so long to develop a solution that by the time it is ready for use the problem no longer exists.

One reason for this is the growing complexity of users' demands. Back in the sixties, the average development time for a conventional program was about six months. Now, because computers are more powerful, and because users' conceptions of what they want are more sophisticated, the average development time for a fully documented and working system has grown to two years.

Stephens & Carter was faced with just this situation. The £30 million company supplies the construction industry with access equipment in the form of scaffolding, towers and ladders, providing hire and contract services from 22 depots throughout the country.

For 12 years it had been using its parent company's IBM mainframe for batch processing, but the increasing competitiveness of the business showed up the system's shortcomings.

"You would be six weeks behind with management information and stock availability information," says managing director Eddie Boss, "and we have therefore had to use manual methods to back up the computer. The mainframe system was very good, but timeliness of the information was missing."

But to have used conventional application development techniques to tackle the problem would have taken far too long, so Stephens & Carter became one of the growing number of companies which has turned to a user-driven system. Instead of the data-processing department developing a solution and operating it, the end-users – often with little or no computer experience – do it for themselves.

"We wanted to get away from this idea of a 'black box' department," explains Boss, "where the users try to specify their needs and the DP department comes out with its ideas, and a long time goes by. We wanted very much more user development in arriving at the system we needed."

The task was handed to Mike Downie, Stephens & Carter's administration manager, and Keith Knight, the company's DP and systems manager.



Downie . . . the man in charge

Downie, who was made project leader, had no computer knowledge at all. Knight was at the time the company's only professional DP employee.

As they studied possibilities, the two men came up with a list of computer companies which offer programming aids designed for end-users. Several of these firms claimed that their systems enabled non-DP people to develop their own programs in a fifth of the time it took previously.

Six possibles were winnowed down to Burroughs and Microdata, who were then subjected to exacting benchmark tests which lasted a week. Finally, Stephens & Carter chose the Burroughs LINC generator.

LINC (Logic and Information Network Compiler) was announced in June 1982, and there are now 540 installations worldwide, including 54 in Britain. It permits a business problem to be defined in a business language rather than a programming language, and allows managements to design their own systems.

According to Burroughs, there are productivity improvements of 1000% over conventional techniques.

The application by Stephens & Carter relates to the operation of its depots. "We are aiming for something almost like an airline," comments Eddie Boss, "where someone can come into one of our depots, ask – for instance – for a tower, and get an immediate response. That may sound simple, but for a 20ft tower there could be 50 components which have to be available."

To start the system, Stephens & Carter is equipping the five busiest depots with a Burroughs B20 microcomputer, each with 10 megabytes of hard disk storage. During the day these micros will work off-line, but overnight each B20 will be linked to the B1965 central computer in the company's accounts office, so that updating can be carried out.

Management will receive up-to-date information through 19 terminals, also supplied by Burroughs, which are being installed at the Brentford headquarters and in regional offices. These will be linked over dial-up lines to the central computer, giving users immediate access to the daily information gathered by the depot micros.

Roland, you're not the main attraction

HOME USER

By David Hewson

Reluctant as I am to risk the wrath of the nation by maligning its best-loved rodent, I am bound to point out that there is one area of British life in which Roland the Rat has been a dismal failure.

He, and the rest of his breakfast television colleagues were supposed to lead the way in the great and growing fashion for second television set ownership. The market researchers who came up with this idea based their predictions on the notion that no-one would want to watch breakfast telly unless it was thrust before them on a portable across the kitchen table each morning.

They were wrong. Most people watch TV-am or Breakfast Time where they watch everything else – in the lounge, the research claims. So why is the second set ownership still growing? Partly because the economy is on the up again, but also, as any home computer owner with a young and keen computing family will know, because there is nothing less conductive to domestic bliss than an argument over whether the set should be used for another shot at The Hobbit or watching the latest BBC mini-series.

Home computers are the most insidious incentive to owning a second set ever invented. If you and your family use the machine regularly, you will find it increasingly difficult to satisfy your needs on one screen. If it seems that domestic harmony can only be restored by the purchase of another television set, take as small comfort the fact that you are part of the knock-on effect of the silicon chip revolution.

In evaluating your needs against what the market is trying to sell you, forget any idea of resurrecting the old black and white portable from the attic. All of today's popular home computers and their software are based upon the idea that they are being run on a colour screen. They might get away with forcing kids to play monochrome Pacman in Irkusk; in Islington such an act would be on a par with wife-beating.

So, is a new 14-inch colour set the answers? Once more, we return to that well-played home-computing axiom: *It depends what you need*. In the beginning, computers were not made to work with the domestic television set; it is only the genetic engineering of the marketplace which has made them compatible, and not without a few drawbacks. For a start, the resolution – in other words, the amount of detail packed or to your set dot-by-dot – is frequently not as good as that which your computer would be able to produce on a screen designed for it.

This brings us back to the old 40 columns versus 80 columns issue. The average computer will support a picture of 40 columns – which you might imagine as letters or rows of figures – and this will come out perfectly adequately on a normal television screen. Move up to 80 columns, however, and your average television is virtually unreadable.

It simply does not produce the resolution – the number of dots on the screen – to draw a reasonable picture.

If you are thinking of using a machine which might eventually upgrade to 80 columns, then, a second colour television will eventually prove useless. You can get around this fairly cheaply by using a monochrome computer monitor, one of those things with green or amber screens, which will carry the resolution of 80 columns and cost under £100. But games, and any applications which use colours for logistic purposes, are out.

My advice to anyone facing this dilemma is this: ask yourself seriously if you want a second set for the computer or because you want to watch more television. It is all too tempting to go out and buy a portable and justify it on the grounds that it will come in useful on picnics, the breakfast table, or wherever. When the thing is surrounded by a serpent's nest of cables, you tend to find it stays where it is.

If you decide that you really want the screen as an outlet for the computer, then take a look at some of the cheaper colour monitors which are now coming on the market. The price is around the same as a portable set, and the resolution is much better, though not all will cope with 80 columns. Even if you never need to use the extra screen quality for professional applications, the improved picture on your children's games will surprise you.

It is worth checking the prices given in the equipment listing of the major computer magazines, and bearing in mind that some monitors work only with certain machines. A final word of advice which might apply to so many computing purchases: see it working, and satisfy yourself that it is what you want, before you part with your cash.

Car market guide

continued from page 19

Guide at an introductory rate of £150 a year plus VAT. Subscribers will also have to enrol in Prestel and rent or buy the necessary Prestel sets and printers. These can be obtained from most TV shops.

Glass's deputy managing director, Michael Lacey, has no doubts that the system will catch on. "The ability to select up-to-the-minute market information on the competition, and have a print-out of what's on the screen in less than five seconds, will obviously immensely improve decision-making.

"Its rather like using the phone, but instead of phoning for someone for what is usually second-hand information, you phone the computer and get the latest facts and figures first hand."

Lacey estimates that only about 1500 of the 8,700 new-car dealerships in Britain have Viewdata experience, and this is through the private stock-control networks operated by the major manufacturers like BL.

THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Governor looks to the longer term on debt

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton's speech to the Overseas Bankers Club (one of the two great public occasions of the Governor's year) makes it plain that he is not going to diverge from the Bank of England line on international debt, as laid down under his predecessor. The international banking community, said Mr Leigh-Pemberton, "has to play a continuing and important part in meeting international financing needs". For the past two years the Bank of England has been urging international banks not to swing from over-lending to under-lending, visiting the sins of Poland or Argentina on their neighbours.

The latest figures from the Bank for International Settlements show how dramatically flows of bank finance to the developing countries had dried up by the *autumn of last* year, *to such* an extent that their loans from western banks were actually exceeded by the rise in their deposits with these banks. Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton's reminder that "it is in the interest of all to sustain and promote healthy world trade and payments flows" is a timely warning.

It is the Bank of England's view, articulated by the Governor last night, that the worst of the debt crisis is over; or, in his cautious phrase, "the acute pressures of a year ago may be beginning *to ease". It was time, therefore, for him to* touch on the search for longer-term solutions. On this the Bank remains typically pragmatic. Mr Leigh-Pemberton urged direct investment as a way for developing countries to attract capital flows without adding to their stock of debt.

So much for the responsibility of debtors to make themselves more attractive; what of the creditors? Mr Leigh-Pemberton welcomed the narrowing of spreads on some new loan packages, but he resisted the idea of more substantial interest relief. Instead he favoured "adjustment" (i.e. lengthening) of the repayment period for borrowed funds.

On the most vexed question of all, his touch was feather-light. The banks, he said, "need to reflect appropriately the deterioration which has occurred in the quality of many of their assets." Yes, but how? By rebuilding capital ratios, for a start – but only for a start. New processes are needed for assessing the quality off international loans. The responsibility, according to the Governor, rests with individual banks. The furthest he would

In that, he thought, banks might be helped by the new Institute of International Finance; which provided the other ain speaker of the evening, and further food for thought among the assembled bankers. Neither M. André de Lattre, of the IIF, nor Mr Leigh-Pemberton seemed ready to take much of their oad of worry off their shoulders.

That is just as it should be. The Bank of *England*, in *particular*, has done a tremendous five-fighting job these past 18 months. Now the banks must work out their long-term salvation.

A warm welcome for inward investment

Now that Nissan has finally decided to set up an assembly plant in Britain, what can we really expect to gain? A more dynamic motor industry, perhaps, if the results of a timely study on inward investment published today by Chatham House are anything to go by. The ostensible objective – more jobs – would seem to be much more doubtful.

The study points out first of all that *foreign* firms, which come here to manufacture, are a good deal more efficient and capital intensive than their domestic counterparts. Though only 2.5 per cent of manufacturing companies are under foreign control they produced 20 per cent of the output with only 14 per cent of the workforce. Japanese companies are no exception. The 24 which manufacture here (they have some £70m of assets) employ only 5,000 people; by that reckoning Nissan's initial 400 to 500 will be a significant addition.

By far the most important benefit from *inward investment, the study says, is the* managerial and technical expertise and the technological spin-off that comes with it.

By the same token, the advent of a highly efficient foreign rival may well take jobs away from overmanned British companies. No wonder Nissan's arrival is viewed with mixed feelings by the industry. At best, the study estimates, about 10,000 to 15,000 jobs a year may have been created in manufacuring from inward investment – a minute proportion of the total.

The Government should not shed too many tears over this. Britain is better off trying to attract high value-added, high productivity activities than attempting to maximize jobs this could easily confirm its low wage/low productivity status

Inward investment: policy options for the *United Kingdom* by Michael Brech and Margaret Sharp. Chatham House Papers 21, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Routledge and Kegan Paul (£4.95)

Walter Goldsmith steps down



Walter Goldsmith steps down in June after five years as director general of the Institute of Directors and goes on to become head of the British arm of Korn/Ferry International. Korn/Ferry claims to be the world's largest "head-hunting" executive search organization and has plans for expansion in Britain. The transfer still seems an anti-climax.

Mr Goldsmith leaves behind a trail of controversy, notably a period of trench warfare with the Confederation of British Industry. Yet whatever views are taken *about the hard line monetarism, which* has emerged from the IoD's Pall Mall headquarters the Institute certainly has been transformed in the Goldsmith years. As Lord Erroll, IoD president, remarked yesterday, the Institute has broken the monopoly which existed before on business *representation* in Britain.

C&W eyes China with bid for Hongkong Telephone

By Jonathan Davis and Bill Johnstone

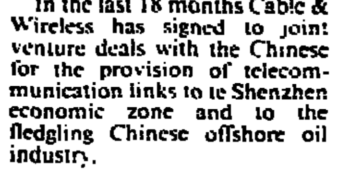
Cable & Wireless took a further big stepforward on the expansionist trail in the Far East yesterday by announcing it is prepared to bid up to £300m to take majority control of the Hongkong Telephone Company, *the colony's monopoly* telephone utility.

Cable & Wireless took a 34.8 per cent stake in the Hongkong company just under a year ago in a cash-and-shares deal worth £143m (or HK$36.3 a share). Now *it is* bidding HK$46 a share for the rest in a move which will consolidate its already dominant position in the Hongkong telecommunications business.

The larger term strategic attraction of the deal for Cable & Wireless is that it will leave it ideally placed to exploit the potentially vast market for telecommunications that exists -e largely untapped - on mainland China.

Mr Eric Sharp, Cable & *Wireless's chairman*, who was in Hongkong yesterday when the bid was announced, has repeatedly said that the sees China as one of the most important potential markets for his company.





Mr Eric Sharp (left) and Mr Ernest Potter: eyes on China

In the last 18 months Cable & Wireless has signed to joint venture deals with the Chinese for the provision of telecommunication links to te Shenzhen economic zone and to the fledgling Chinese offshore oil industry.

Hongkong Telephone Company's shares were suspended in Hongkong yesterday. The HK$46-a-share bid represents a *HK$12-a-share* premium over the closing price last Wednesday, when the market closed for the Chinese New Year holidays.

Cable & Wireless had already bought just over 3 per cent of the company's shares from the Li family in Hongkong before the bid was announced, bringing its stake to 38.4 per cent. It appears confident of success, having also won the backing for its bid from other interests controlled by the Li family.

Mr Ernest Potter, Cable & Wireless's finance director, said the company was *not* necessarily keen to take 100 per cent control with the bid. *It* would be satisfied with a majority holding, and there was some advantage in leaving a minority local shareholding, in line with the practice of other Hongkong utilities.

If Cable & Wireless has to buy 100 per cent of the shares, it would cost approximately £288m in addition to the cost of the 3 per cent Li family holding. To obtain 51 per cent control would cost no more than £60m.

Mr Potter said that the deal would be financed by borrowings. "We have no plans for further share issues at the moment," he said. The Government, which denationalized Cable & Wireless in 1981 and sold a further tranche of the shares last September, holds 22.5 per cent of the company.

Cable & Wireless already operates Hongkong's external telecommunications, and yesterday's bid should give it full control of the local telephone system.

Hongkong Telephone made an after-tax profit of HK$291m in 1982, the last full year for which there are accounts, and its latest interim figures show a 26 per cent increase in profits.

Cable & Wireless will also be well placed to standardize the use of equipment in the Hongkong area, leaving it in a powerful position from which to bid for telecommunications business in mainland China.

Index falls 16.9 points

Shares prices tumbled across the board yesterday as the London stock market experienced its biggest one-day fall in nearly two and a half years. More than £2,000m was wiped off the value of shares *quoted* as the *FT* index dropped 16.9 to 815.5.

Nearly all 30 constituents of the index ended the day lower following the lates setback on Wall Street. Jobbers marked prices lower from *the outset* as the market's record-breaking run was brought ot a screeching halt. The gilt market fared little better with losses of between 75p and £1 following the Government's latest helping of *£1,000m of long "tap"*.

Tension in the Middle East and signs that the Fed may tighten its credit stance revived the dollar

It rose to well above DM 2.75 at one stage before relapsing to *close only 30 pointsup* at DM 2.7390.

The pound mirrored the dollar's movements, ending the day 25 points lower at $1.4255 while its trade-weighted index gained 0.1 to 82.1.

Market report, page 22

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 815.5 down 16.9
FT Gilts: 82.72 down 0.49
FT All Share: 492.68 down 7.80
Bargains: 25,675
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 105.18 down 0.7
New York: Dow Jones industrial average: (latest) 1186.24 down 10.79
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10121.08 up 35.69
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1134.12 up 25.58
Amsterdam: 175.7 down 5.4
Sydney: AO Index 778.7 up 1.9
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1078.5 down 16.0
Brussels: General Index 145.01 down 1.37
Paris: CAC Index 108.7 down 1.2

Zurich: SKA General 313.5 down 3.50

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling
$1.4255 down 25pts
Index 82.1 up 0.1
DM 3.91 unchanged
FrF 11.9850 down 0.03
Yen 333.50 up 0.1
Dollar
Index 130.0 down 0.3
DM 2.7390 up 0.0030
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1.4230
Dollar DM 2.7430
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.573744
SDR £0.731123

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 9¹⁄₁₆-9
3 month interbank 9⁷⁄₁₆-9⁵⁄₁₆
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9¹¹⁄₁₆-9¹³⁄₁₆
3 month DM 5⅞-5¾
3 month Fr F14¾-14⅝
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9⅝
Treasury long bond 101²¹⁄₃₂-101²⁵⁄₃₂
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period December 7 to January 3, 1983 inclusive: 9 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $380.40 pm $380.60
close $381.25-381.75 (£267.10-267.60)
New York latest: $381.50
Krugerrand* (per coin):
$392.50-394.50 (£275.25-276.75)
Sovereigns* (new):
$89.50-90.50 (£62.50-63)
**Excludes VAT*

Inflation risk as producer prices rise

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Prices charged by manufacturers for goods at the factory gate are still rising only modestly despite the record consumer spending spree, the latest official figures suggest. But there is little sign of the the slowdown in producer price increases needed if inflation is to fall further by the end of the year as the Government hopes.

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday that spending in the shops in *December* reached a record, with sales more than 6.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Families financed the spree by borrowing more than ever before. Nearly £1 billion of new consumer credit was advanced *in December by shops and* finance houses, and consumers also borrowed heavily from the banks.

At the end of last year the amount of consumer credit outstanding was 24 per cent higher than 12 months previously.

The high level of borrowing, brought about by abolition of credit controls, lower interest rates and falling inflation, has been a key motor of economic recovery, allowing spending to outstrip the rise in people's incomes.

In 1983 as a whole, the volume of business in the shops was 5.5 per cent higher than in 1982, while after-tax incomes rose by barely half that. Shops *selling* clothes, shoes and household goods have seen the biggest boost to sales – up by 11 per cent last year. Sales by department stores rose by 5.5 per cent

Economic recovery has not *yet sparked off a resurgence in* inflation. Separate figures released yesterday show that factory gate prices rose by 0.6 per cent *last month*, traditionally the *month* that companies change their price lists, pushing up the annual rate slightly to 5.7 per cent from 5.6 per cent in December.

This is the highest annual rate for more than a year.

This is disappointing for the Government, which last autumn forecast inflation falling from the present 5.3 per cent to 4.5 per cent by the end of the year, and the latest Treasury predictions are thought to be less optimistic.

The costs of industry's fuel and raw materials have been *rising rapidly in recent months*, mostly reflecting higher commodity prices and a weaker pound. They rose in January by 1.1 per cent, less than the 3.4 per cent recorded in December, while the annual rate of increase *edged up to 7.3 per cent from 7.2* per cent the previous month.

Fed retains grip on money supply

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Federal Reserve Board released new monetary targets for 1984 yesterday, which signaled its intention to maintain a continued tight rein on the money supply and at the same time retain maximum flexibility to respond to changes during an uncertain election year.

In its annual report to Congress, the Fed set 1984 targets for money supply and credit growth which were largely unchanged from the revised 1983 targets set last July, when it moved to slow the pace of economic expansion.

The new targets for the narrower M1 measure of money in circulation were set at from 4 per cent to 8 per cent annual growth, unchanged from the revised 1983 figures.

For the broader M2 and M3 measures of money supply – which the bank said would continue to be given additional weight in making policy – the targets were set at from 6 per cent to 9 per cent annual growth, a rge that would reduce *growth slightly in the M2* measure, but leve M3 unchanged.

Targets for credit growth in 1984 were also left unchanged in the 8 per cent to 11 per cent target range.

Release of the report preceded by a day the scheduled appearance before Congress of Mr Paul Volcker, the fed central bank chairman, who was expected to deliver a strong warning of the dangers posed by the huge US budget deficit projected at $200 billion.

Paul Volcker: Warning on deficit expected

The Fed's report placed considerable emphasis on the need to reduce the budget deficit which it said would: "*continue to drain-off an* extremely large portion of available net saving in the economy", thus exacerbating tensions in beleaguered credit markets.

The report agreed with the finding of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers that the federal budget deficit was causing high interest rates which had widespread adverse repercussions for the international economy.

Not only were high rates exerting upward pressure on the dollar, but they were also "aggravating the debt service problems of major international debtors" the report said in calling for action to reduce the deficits.

Because of the uncertainties associated with the impact of the deficit on the economy, the fed said it would continue to place less emphasis on the narrow M1 measure of money supply in order to retain *maximum flexibilty in the* coming year.

On the brighter side, the Fed forecast economic growth of from 4 per cent to 4.75 per cent

US deficit dispute grows

From Our Correspondent Washington

Mr Martin Feldstein, President Reagan's unrepentant chief economics adviser, renewed his warning against the huge US budget deficit yesterday in his first public appearance since being told to cancel an appearance on a television show by the White House chief of staff.

Mr Martin Feldstein told members of the House Budget Committee that if there was an effort this year and next to reduce the deficit, projected at $200 billion (£140 billion) for the next four years, then the Administration's optimistic economic forecast, released last week, would be meaningless.

He said that without such action, growth would slow, interest rates would remain high, inflation would rise and there would be an uneven, fragile recovery, rather than the *sustained one which has been* forecast.

His renewed warning came after denial by Mr George Bush, the vice president, that Mr Reagan's economics team was in disarray, and preceded the bipartisan negotiations this week between Congressional and Administration officials on ways to reduce the deficit.

Last week, a row flared between Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary and Mr Feldstein in another public display of the internal dissension which reportedly divided Administration officals over economic policy.

Mr Feldstein and to a lesser degree, Mr David Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, have warned repeatedly of the adverse impact of the deficits, *which they have said must be* tackled before the election.

Guinness pays out £223,000

By Jeremy Warner

Arthur Guinness & Sons has paid our £223.00 in compensation to former directors since Mr Ernest Saunders was appointed as managing director two years ago to help breathe new life into the ailing brewing group.

This is revealed in the company's report and accounts which was posted to shareholders yesterday. The payments were shared by Mr Tony Purssell, who resigned as deputy chairman in January last year after 30 years with the group, and Mr John O'Brien, who left his job as finance director in June after only 10 months with the company.

Mr O'Brien, who received £60,000 as his pay off, was regarded as a key element of the new management strategy launched under Mr Saunders and his sudden departure was greeted with surprise.

Mr Purssell who is 56, took his £163,000 in the form of a paid-up pension agreement. His position as executive deputy chairman of Guinness became uncertain soon after the arrival of Mr Saunders with a new management brief. Mr Purssell resigned about a year later.

Guinness had either sold or closed more than 50 companies in a sweeping programme of asset disposals designed to concentrate resources on the original brewing business since Mr Saunders was appointed.

Philips to control Grundig

By Jonathan Clare

Philips, the Dutch electronics company, is to take control of Grundig, its West German rival, in partnership with a consortium of banks after negotiating agreement with Dr Max Grundig, the company's founder.

Yesterday, Philips said it would take over a 7.1 per cent stake in Grundig from the Max Grundig Foundation for an unspecified price on April 1. This stake will take its total holding to 31.6 per cent.

The bank consortium, led by the Dresdner Bank, is subscribing for a form of debenture which is convertible into ordinary shares.

A new management company will also be formed on April 1 to run the company.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US look at Scott Lithgow

Bechtel yesterday began a feasibility study of Scott Lithgow on the Lower Clyde as a first step towards trying to buy the troubled shipyard. Bechtel, a branch of a California-based engineering and construction *group*, will have support from a consortium of Scottish financial institutions if they decide to bid for the yard against the shipping and property group Trafalgar House which has emerged as the chief contender.

A spokesman for Bechtel said yesterday the one element the company lacked in its UK operation was a fabrication yard. They were keen to remedy that. The feasibility report would be put to the consortium in about two weeks *and a* decision made than whether or not to bid for the yard.

● **Shareholders** of Gleneagles Hotels who have not yet accepted a £27m takeover bid from *Arthur Bell & Sons*, are to be advised day by their directors to continue to hold but for a better offer.

● **Audiotronic** is making an agreed bid worth £2.3m for Scan Data International, the computer supplier *which* is traded on the Unlisted Securities Market. The share offer values Scan at 99p; there is also an underwritten cash alternative of 94.5p. Audiotronic is also raising £1m from its institutional investors. *The* formal offer document will include a loss forecast from Audiotronic for the present year.

WALL STREET

Shares trim worst losses

New York (AP-Dow Jones) – Stocks were steadily trimming their worst losses in early trading yesterday and some analysts talked of a short term rally possibly within a few days.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 11 points at 1,186, whittling away at the drop that had extended to 17 points.

Declines were about 1,160 issues to 270 ahead of advances.

Trading was active but lagging the first hour pace.

Mr Monte Gordon, research director at Dreyfus Corp, said the market was increasingly frustrated "by its inability to sustain a rally. This perception is behind the drop."

Mr Gordon said: "There is no prospect in the present tax or spending policies of any way to lower the Federal deficit with neither the Administration nor Congress providing any leadership. There is a rising interest cost to the Federal deficit and the only way to keep that from building is to cut spending."

Cutbacks hit export-dominated distilling industry

Whisky prices to rise 5% as sales slump

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Despite declines in exports, which account for 85 per cent of production, Scotch whisky distillers are putting through export price increase of about 5 to 6 per cent. Next month or in March at the latest increases nearing the same level are likely to go through for the British market.

The increases for Britain apply at the point whisky leaves bond. It may add 15p to 20p a bottle at the retail point.

But the ability of the industry to increase prices is limited by the fierce competition in the British market. Distilleries are working at only about 40 per cent of capacity and bottling plants at about 70 per cent of *capacity*

But there is no immediate threat to jobs at distilleries or bottling plants, according to Mr Donald Mackinlay, chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association's information committee. Plant closures of the past two years had anticipated the sales declines.

Distilleries, which usually run considerably under capacity, often employ less than 20 people. The big employers are the bottling and packaging plants. There are about 100 small malt distilleries and a dozen grain distilleries in Scotland.

There has been strong growth in own-label whiskies bottled for the supermarket chains mirroring the excess of stocks in the industry. Distillers believe that as stocks become more balanced the price differences between national brands – there are almost 100 of these – and own-label brands will diminish easing the pressure on margins.

In the first 10 months of last year British releases of whicky from bond were down 2 per cent compared with the same period of the year before.

Distillers say they had at least as good a Christmas sales period as in 1982 so there is a good chance that sales into the trade for the year finished up about the same level as 1982.

The pattern of British sales has altered during the year. Releases from bond were 11 per cent down last March but the picture improved as the year progressed.

The big worry is that the Chancellor, faced with a possible reduction in tax returns from tobacco as cigarette sales decline, may shift the burden to alcoholic drinks.

Exports fell 9 per cent last year, contrasting with the slight improvement seen in 1982.

Some Third World countries made massive cutbacks: Nigerian imports fell 62 per cent, Algerian 65 per cent, Somalian 85 per cent and Tanzanian 93 per cent.

Venezuela, the most important South American market, brought in quotas cutting imports 40 per cent. With currency devaluation there pushing up prices by 100 per cent exports actually dropped 45 per cent.

In the two key markets – the US and Japan – shipments also declined. The US accounts for 30 per cent of Scotch exports.

Sales of all spirits have tumbled in the US but there are signs of a switch back to whisky by American drinkers who had turned more to wine and white spirits. But Mr Mackinlay warned that a dramatic improvement could not be expected in the immediate future.

Lonrho stake cut

By Philip Robinson

Gulf Fisheries (Overseas) the group which holds the Kuwaiti royal family's stake in Lonrho, confirmed yesterday that it had sold 5.6 million shares in the trading group, reducing its holding to a fraction over 12 per cent.

At one point, Gulf was Lonrho's largest single shareholder with 17 per cent, but it has been reducing its stake over the past four years as relations between the Kuwaitis and Lonrho has soured.

Mr Tom Ferguson, Gulf's *London representative* said yesterday: "We sold because the shares touched 130p, a level we have never seen before."

Mr "Tiny" Roland, Lonrho's chief executive has asked for a Stock Exchange inquiry into why *Gulf sold* some of its Fraser shares last August before the appointment of a government inspector

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

Shares suffer worst day for 2½ years

More than £2 billion was wiped off share values yesterday as the London Stock Market suffered its worst day's trading in nearly two and a half years. Another sharp setback on Wall Street over the weekend set the trend with jobbers marking prices lower at the outset and watching them drift steadily down throughout the day.

The FT Index closed 16.9 down at 815.5. The previous biggest one day fall was on September 28, 1981, when the index fell 17.2 after Wall Street guru Mr Joe Granville predicted world stock market were going to enter a bear market not seen since the days of the Great Depression.

Many dealers had been predicting yesterday's shakeout for a number of weeks following the market's record breaking run. Even so, many investors were caught on the hop and showed signs of panic as they tried to realise some of their profits.

Last night some brave souls were predicting that a few cheap buyers would appear on the scene later this week as the account drew to a close. They described the market undertone as still firm.

Leading industrials bore the brunt of the selling with sizable falls in **Allied-Lyons** 3p to 152p, **BICC** 6p to 270p, **BTR** 8p to 424p, **Beecham** 3p to 313p, **Bowater** 10p to 278p, **Cadbury Schweppes** 3p to 122p, **Courtaulds** 3p to 141p, **Distillers** 4p to 257p, **GEC** 6p to 184p, **GKN** 6p to 200p, **Grand Metropolitan** 8p to 330p, **Hawker Siddeley** 6p to 406p, **Imperial Group** 6p to 154p, **Plessey** 7p to 212p, **Tate & Lyle** 6p to 410p, **Thorn EMI** 12p to 627p and **Vickers** 10p to 130p.

The gilt-edged market continued to stagger under the weight of the Government's new £1,000m long "tap" announced on Friday. Losses at the longer end of the market extended to £1 amid nervous selling.

The jobbers were caught on the hop yesterday in shares of Castle GB, the kitchen and bathroom equipment distributor, where the price rebounded 11p a new high of 90p yesterday. This follows a visit to the company last week by broker Vickers da Costa, which is thought to have come away impressed. Unfortunately Vickers declined to comment on its findings.

Brewery shares appeared a little flat worried by the prospect of an extra 7p on a pint following a ruling from the European Commission. **Bass** tumbled 10p to 308p, **Allied-Lyons** 3p to 152p, **Belhaven** 4p to 34p, **HP Bulmer** 5p to 238p, **Grand Metropolitan** 8p to 330p, **Mansfield Brewery** 2p to 384p, **Scottish & Newcastle** 1½p to 104½p and **Whitbread "A"** 2p to 143p.

Trafalgar House's move into the North Sea – it purchased the largest share of the BP's Forties Field that was put on the market – has continued with the announcement tha it now has received acceptances for 93 per cent of Candecca Resources.

The Trafalgar House bid for Candecca, which owns substantial North Sea exploration rights, valued the company at £78.5m. Trafalgar lost 3p to 214p.

Mr Gerald Ratner is being made up to the sole managing director of the jewelry company which bears family name. He was formerly joint MD with Mr Leslie Ritner who stands aside from the day to day running of the company, but will remain an executive chairman of the company. Ratner closed unchanged at 54p.

Massey Ferguson's loan stock was suspended in both Toronto and London yesterday while the North American Securities Commission worked out the pricing of new shares which can be converted from warrants issued as part of the Farm Equipment company's refinancing scheme. The shares are likely to be requoted this morning. Each warrant exercized before February 29, at Can$5 will entitle the holder to receive one ordinary share and one additional warrant.

The Australian entrepreneur Mr Robert Holmes a' Court has been appointed chairman of **Weeks Petroleum**, the oil exploration group. This follows the decision of his own company, the Bell Group, to lift its stake in Weeks to 46 per cent of the total with the acquisition of an extra 30.5 million shares. The news did little for the price of Weeks which tumbled 45p to 415p.

RIT & Northern has reduced its holding in LEP Group, the international freight forwarder, with the sale of 357,000 shares. It now owns 350,000 shares, or less than 5 per cent of the total. The United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution bought a parcel of 150,000 Lep and now owns 750,000 shares, or 10.70 per cent. Lep closed unchanged at 505p.

The Edinburgh American Assets Trust has bought an extra 150,000 shares in Grampian Holdings, the industrial holdings group, taking its interest up to 900,000 representing 8.86 per cent of the entire equity. The shares will be registered under the nominee name of Scotcom. Grampain slipped 2p to 82p.

Shares of **Robert Moss** were unchanged at 85p despite the news that the Scottish Investment Trust has increased its holding to 1.58 million (11.4 per cent). **The Kuwait Investment Office** has bought an extra 600,000 in the Stock Conversion Investment Trust lifting its stake to 4.36 million (8.34 per cent). Stock Conversion slipped 2p to 311p.

Aero Needles, Britain's largest supplier of knitting needles, has forecast pretax profits more than doubled at £588,000 for 1983 as the first step in its defence against the unwanted bid of 60p a share from Newell Furnishings, the UK subsidiary of Newell Inc the D-I-Y company. The group also intends to pay the dividend arrears on the Convertible Preference shares and says Newell's offer significantly undervalues the company.

Directors and share-holders speaking for over 50 per cent of the shares have already told the board they intend to reject the bid.

Shares of UKO International, the lens manufacturer, ended their recent strong run tumbling 16p to 142p. Yesterday the board had a private lunch with broker Panmure Gordon, which said nothing price sensitive had been discussed and that takeover speculation had added a certain amount of froth to the share price.

Bluemel Bros, the manufacturer of metal polishes, slipped ½p to 14p after the private company Bulkeley Investments completed a reshuffle of its shareholding. It has decided to sell 333,000 Bluemel shares for an undisclosed sum and bought a further 488,000 taking its holding to 2.1 million

Estates Property Investment climbed 3p to 151p as the Dutch company Clabir International bought an extra 225,000 shares

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	†10¼%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	*9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 [illegible], £10,000 up to £50,000 [illegible], £50,000 and over [illegible].

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **Wyndham Engineering:** Terms have been agreed under which the company will acquire Harrowby Street Properties, a subsidiary of Control Securities, a freehold property known as 2-8 The Rock, Bury for £240,000.

Consideration will be satisfied by the allotment of 300,000 fully paid ordinary shares of Wyndham to Control Securities Group.

● **Malaysia Rubber Company:** Nine months to December 31, 1983. Net revenue £41,301 (£28,978). Dividends from associated companies £35,714 (£50,407). Tax £23,111 (£15,426). Earnings per share, 2.99 (1.94p). Net asset value, 196.67p (125.31p). Figures including dividends declared by Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates to February

Sanderson joins GRA to advise on property

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Frank Sanderson has joined the board of GRA Group to help decide which of the company's dog tracks will be used for greyhound racing and which turned over to property development.

Mr Sanderson, aged 57, has enormous expertise in property and building. He was chief executive of Bovis during the abortive bid for the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Co in 1972.

He revealed yesterday that he was also once a breeder and trainer of greyhounds. However, he said such a combination of talents was unusual but not unique and the investigation of the GRA's dog racing side required financial rather than canine knowledge.

Mr Sanderson has an interest in GRA both through a personal shareholding and through the stake held by Marchwiel, the holding company for the Sir Alfred MacAlpine building group, where he is on the board. Marchwiel took over Finlas, Mr Sanderson's company which went private in 1980, for £11m 18 months ago.

The Marchwiel stake is part of the 26.3 per cent stake acquired from the ICI pension fund by a consortium led by Mr Isidore Kerman, GRA's chairman.

Distillers US deal near completion

The Distillers Company is close to completing the $300m (£211m) purchase of one of its main whisky distribution and marketing companies in the United States.

The big distilling group disclosed two weeks ago that it was in talks with Esmark of Chicago over the possibility of buying Somerset Importers which handles the distribution of Johnnie Walker Red and Black labels in the United States.

Senior executives of Distillers are in New York at the moment putting the finishing touches to a deal

Exmark acquired Somerset as part of its $1 billion takeover of Norton Simon last summmer.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per metric ton; Gas-oil in US $ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Mch	900–98
Apl	910–00
Apl/Jne	907-05
Jun/Sep	923–19
Oct/Dec	934–31
Jan/Mch	947–43
Apl/Jne	960–53
Jne/Sep	972–65
Oct/Dec	990–81
Vol.	123

COCOA	
Mch	1846–42
May	1829–28
Jyl	1810–08
Sep	1787–86
Dec	1775–70
Mch	1765–62
May	1765–58
Vol:	5746

COFFEE	
Mar	2101–2098
May	1930–1928
July	1856–1854
Sep	1825–1824
Nov	1803–1802
Jan	1772–1770
Mar	1752–1746
Vol:	2732

SUGAR (6)	
Mar	190.00–190.60
May	197.20–197.60
Aug	206.20–206.40
Oct	213.60–214.40
Dec	219.60–221.40
Mar	235.00–237.00

GAS OIL	
Feb	262.50–262.25
Mar	247.25–247.00
Apl	241.75–241.50
May	237.25–237.00
Jun	236.80–236.25
Jly	238.50–237.00
Aug	241.00–237.00
Sep	245.00–237.00
Oct	249.00–237.50
Vol. 1125	

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures

Prices in pounds per metric ton. Silver in pence per troy ounce

Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	987.00–88.00
Three months	1010.00–10.50
T.O	5700
Tone: Steadier.	

STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	973.00–75.00
Three months	996.00–97.00
T.O	Idle
Tone: nil	

TIN STANDARD	
Cash	8570–75
Three months	8710–11
T/O:	475
Tone: Barely steady	

TIN HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	8645–80
Three months	8747–50
T.O	60
Tone. Quiet	

LEAD	
Cash	276.00–76.00
Three months	285.50–86.00
T/O:	2350
Tone: Steady.	

ZINC	
Cash	698.00–69.00
Three months	696.00–96.50
T/O:	6700
Tone: Barely steady.	

SILVER LARGE	
Cash	615.0–16.0
Three months	629.0–29.5
T/O:	44
Tone: Steady	

SILVER SMALL	
Cash	615.0–16.0
Three months	629.0–30.0
T/O:	Idle
Tone: Nil	

ALUMINIUM	
Cash	1067.50–68.50
Three months	1095.00–95.50
T.O:	9100
Tone; Barely Steady	

NICKEL	
Cash	3270–75
Three months	3340–45
T/O:	486
Tone: Barely Steady.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.

Feb	379.10–384.00
Apl	387.20–387.40
Jun	393.394
Aug	399.70–400.50
Oct	406–407.50
Dec	413.00–414.50
Vol:	354
Tone: Steadier.	

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 6.
GB: Cattle, 98.14p per kg lw (-1.14).
GB: Sheep, 184.88p per kg est d c w (+6.63).
GB: Pigs, 77.46p per kg lw (-0.54).

England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 13.2 per cent, ave. price, 95.62p (-1.28).
Sheep nos. down 19.9 per cent, ave. price, 187.54p (+9.18).
Pig nos. up 14.5 per cent, ave. price, 77.46p (-0.57).

Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 21.1 per cent, ave. price, 92.70p (-1.78).
Sheep nos. up 16.8 per cent, ave. price, 175.90p (-1.78).
Pig nos. down 1.8 per cent, ave. price, 77.61p (+1.84).

London Grain Futures Market

Month	WHEAT Close	BARLEY Close
Mar	£120.00	117.95
May	£121.65	119.50
Jul	£122.55	–
Sep	£108.25	106.05
Nov	£111.10	109.05
Jan	£114.25	112.00

Total lots traded
Wheat: 143
Barley: 152

WALL STREET

	Feb 3	Feb 2
AMF Inc	15¾	16
AMR	33½	35
Allied Chem	51¼	53
Allied Stores	49½	44¾
Allis Chalmers	16	16¼
Alcoa	40¼	42¼
Amax Inc	26¾	25¾
Amerada Hess	29¼	31½
Am Brands	59¾	60
Am Broadcast	57½	59
Am Can	51¼	51¼
Am Cyanamid	48	49½
Am Elec Power	18¾	18½
Am Home	53¾	54
Am Motors	6¾	7
Am Nat Res	46¾	47⅞
Am Standard	38½	38½
Am Telephone	65⅞	65⅞
Armco Steel	21¾	21
Asarco	31¾	32⅞
Ashland Oil	27¾	28
Atlantic Richfield	44	45½
Avco	28¾	28¾
Avon Products	24¾	25¼
Bankers Tst NY	48¾	48½
Bank of America	22¾	22¾
Bank of Boston	42¾	42
Bank of NY	33¾	34
Beatrice Foods	31⅞	32¼
Bethlehem Steel	25	25¾
Boeing	42⅞	43
Boise Cascade	46	46¼
Borden	56¾	57½
Borg Warner	20¾	21¼
Bristol Myers	45	45¾
BP	24½	22¾
Burlington Ind	32¼	32½
Burlington Nthn	85¾	85⅞
Burroughs	48¾	50
Campbell Soup	61¾	62¼
Canadian Pacific	38¾	39
Caterpillar	47½	48¾
Celanese	70¾	70⅞
Central Soya	15	15
Chase Manhat	51¼	52½
Chem Bank NY	45⅞	45½
Chrysler	29¾	31½
Citicorp	35⅞	35¾
Clark Equip	35⅞	37
Coca Cola	51	50
Colgate	21¾	21½
CBS	64	65
Columbia Gas	30¼	30
Combustion Eng	33¾	33¾
Comwlth Edison	24	23¾
Cons Edison	24¾	24¼
Cons Foods	27½	28¾
Cons Power	12¾	12⅞
Continental Grp	30¾	30
Control Data	40⅞	42¾
Corning Glass	68	68¾
CPC Intnl	39	39
Crane	30½	30
Crocker Int	28½	28½
Crown Zeller	32¾	33
Dart & Kraft	69¾	70
Deere	35¾	36¾
Delta Air	36¾	35¾
Detroit Edison	14¾	14¾
Disney	54⅞	55¼
Dow Chemical	31⅛	31¼
Dresser Ind	19⅞	19¾
Duke Power	25¾	25
Du Pont	48⅞	48¼
Eastern Air	6¾	7¼
Eastman Kodak	70¾	72¾
Eaton Corp	51¾	53
Esmark	42¾	42
Evans P. D.	8¾	8¾
Exxon Corp	36½	36½
Fed Dept Stores	52¾	53¼
Firestone	19	19
Fst Chicago	25¾	25¾

	Feb 3	Feb 2
Fst Intrst Bncp	43¼	43½
Fst Penn Corp	7	7
Ford	38¾	40¾
GAF Corp	16	16⅛
GTE Corp	42⅞	43
Gen Dynamics	53¾	54¼
Gen Electric	54½	55¾
Gen Foods	49⅞	51¼
Gen Mills	47⅞	48
Gen Motors	70¾	72¾
Gen Pub Util NY	7½	7¾
Gen Tire	33½	33½
Genesco	7½	7⅞
Georgia Pacific	24	24¾
Getty Oil	122½	122¾
Gillette	48¾	48¾
Goodrich	32¾	32½
Goodyear	28½	28¾
Gould Inc	31¾	32⅞
Grace	42¾	43
Gt Atlic & Pacific	13	13½
Greyhound	24	24
Grumman Corp	24	23¾
Gulf Oil	55¾	57¼
Gulf & West	30¾	31¾
Heinz H. J.	38¾	38¾
Hercules	32	33
Honeywell	114¾	118¼
IC Inds	45¼	45½
Ingersoll	51¾	52¾
Inland Steel	30¼	30½
IBM	110¾	114
Int Harvester	11½	11¾
INCO	14¼	14¾
Int Paper	53½	54½
Int Tel Tel	41¾	43¾
Irving Bank	60	62¾
Jewel Co	45¾	45¾
Jim Walter	34½	34¾
Johnson & John	38¾	38½
Kaiser Alumin	18	19¼
Kerr McGee	33¾	33½
Kimberly Clark	86	86¾
K Mart	31¼	31¾
Kroger	33¾	33¾
L.T.V. Corp	18	17¾
Litton	65½	66¾
Lockheed	34¾	38¾
Lucky Stores	18¾	19¼
Manuf Hanover	40¾	40¾
Manville Cp	12	12
Mapco	28	25¾
Marine Midland	25¾	25¾
Martin Marietta	35¾	36¾
McDonnell	57½	58¾
Mead	34½	34⅞
Merck	91¼	90¾
Minnesota Mng	79¾	78¾
Mobil Oil	30¼	30½
Monsanto	93½	94½
Morgan J. P.	75¾	76¾
Motorola	113¾	118¾
NCR Corp	115¾	117¾
NL Industries	14¾	14½
Nabisco	44¾	45½
Nat Distillers	29¼	28½
Nat Med Ent	21¾	22½
Norfolk South	41	43¾
NW Bancorp	31½	31½
Occidental Pet	28¾	27¾
Ogden	27½	28¾
Olin Corp	27½	28
Owens-Illinois	36¾	37
Pacific Gas Elec	14⅞	14¾
Pan Am	7¾	6¾
Penney J. C.	53½	54¾
Pennzoil	37	37¾
Pepsico	36½	38¾
Pfizer	37¾	38
Phelps Dodge	36¾	37
Philip Morris	71	72¾
Phillips Petrol	37¾	38
Polaroid	29¾	30¾

	Feb 3	Feb 2
PPG Ind	31½	31¾
Proctor Gamble	50½	55¾
Pub Ser El & Gas	23¾	23¾
Raytheon	43¾	44¼
RCA Corp	32¾	33
Republic Steel	28½	28¾
Reynolds Ind	62¾	65
Reynolds Metal	35¾	36¼
Rockwell Int	28¾	29¾
Royal Dutch	50¾	51
Safeways	25¾	25¾
St Regis Paper	34¼	33¾
SFE Sopac	25¾	25¾
SCM	37½	37¾
Schlumberger	44⅞	45¾
Scott Paper	38	38¾
Seagram	35	35¾
Sears Roebuck	35	35¾
Shell Oil	55	55
Shell Trans	38¾	38¾
Signal Co	29¾	30¼
Singer	25¾	25¾
Smithkline Beck	58¾	58⅞
Sony	16¾	16½
Sth Cal Edison	36½	36¾
Southern Pacific	28½	29½
Sperry Corp	43¾	45
Std Oil Califnia	35½	37¼
Std Oil Indiana	50½	51
Std Oil Ohio	45¾	47
Sterling Drug	25¾	26
Stevens J. P.	22¾	23
Sun Comp	51¾	52½
Teledyne	164¾	167¾
Tenneco	40¾	40¾
Texaco	40¾	39¾
Texas East Corp	61½	61¼
Texas Inst	127	129
Texas Utilities	24¼	24¼
Textron	32¾	32½
TWA	22½	27½
Travelers Corp	28¾	28¾
TRW Inc	75¼	74¾
UAL Inc	34¾	35¼
Union Carbide	54	55½
Union Oil Calif	34¾	34¾
Un Pacific Corp	47¾	50¾
Uniroyal	15¾	15¾
United Brands	19¾	20¾
US Industries	14¾	16½
US Steel	28¾	29
Utd Technol	68¾	68¼
Wachovia	46¼	45¾
Warner Comms	29¾	29½
Warner Lambert	31¾	32¾
Wells Fargo	40½	40¾
Westinghse Elec	51¼	51¼
Weyerhaeuser	31½	32
Whirlpool	43¾	43⅞
Woolworth	33½	33¾
Xerox Corp	42	41¾
Zenith	32	32¾
Canadian Prices		
Abitibi	28½	28½
Alcan Alumin	43¾	44¾
Algoma Steel	29¾	29¾
Bell Telephone	31¾	31¾
Cominco	58¾	58¾
Cons Bathurst	27½	27
Gulf Oil	16¾	16¾
Hawker/Sid Can	19¾	19½
Imasco	34¾	35¼
Imperial Oil	36¾	36½
Int Pipe	30¼	30¾
Mass-Ferguson	3¾	3¾
Royal Trustco	24	24¼
Seagram	47¾	47¾
Steel Co	31½	31
Thomson N 'A'	30½	30½
Walker Hiram	26¾	28½
WCT	15¾	15¾

* Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

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APPOINTMENTS

Board seat for Sears executive

Sears Holdings: Mr Howard Perlin, a senior executive with the group, has been appointed a director.

Throgmorton Trust: Mr Christopher Gibbons has been appointed a director. He also becomes a director of Throgmorton Secured Growth Trust and The New Throgmorton Trust (1983).

Charterhouse SA: Mr André de Sike has joined the board.

The Phoenix Timber Group: Mr Alexander Gourvitch has retired as chairman. He retains his seat on the board as a non-executive director and has been appointed life president of the company. Mr Dennis Cook has become chairman and will continue as group managing director. Mr Michael Hermann has been appointed an additional main board director. He is managing director of Phoenix Preservation.

Cullens Stores: Mr David Matanle has joined the board. He has been company secretary since August 1983.

Trend Communications: Sir Hugh Cunningham has joined the board of the company which is the data communications division of Phicom.

Enterprise Oil: Dr Myles Brown becomes exploration director from March 1.

National Carriers Contract Services: Mr Mike Tarrant has been appointed managing director. He takes over from Mr Paul Rivett who was recently appointed managing director of Downards-Pickford Pty, the Australian removals and distribution subsidiary of the National Freight Consortium based in Melbourne.

Metropolitan Services: Mr S J Brogan and Mr K J Jenkins have become directors.

Wigham Poland Professional Indemnity: Mr Johnathan Dodd has joined the company as a director specializing in credit and bonding, both domestic and export covers.

River and Mercantile Trust: Mr Antony Foucar has been appointed chairman, succeeding Mr David Jamieson.

Drake & Scull: Mr Michael Munton has become director of marketing and technology.

F Chambers & Company: Mr David Harrison has been appointed marketing and sales director. Mr Brian Potts has become operations director and Mr Alan Whincup, research and development director.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas looks at the food market

Shaping up for a healthy future

As the trend towards healthier eating becomes established, with concern over diet no longer the preserve of slimmers and health food freaks, a growing number of food and drink companies are developing the health platform for products aimed at the mass market.

This week sees the launch by St Ivel, the fresh foods division of Unigate, of what it describes as Britain's first range of low fat dairy products. Called St Ivel Shape, the range initially consists of fresh milk, cheese, cottage cheese and soft cheese products, with other lines, including yoghourts and desserts, planned for later in the year.

A £2.1m promotion is planned for the launch, including a £1m television advertising campaign starting next month, with back-up from advertisements in women's and slimming magazines. St Ivel says this is the heaviest investment it has put behind any launch in its history.

The decision to market a low fat range in mass market comes after the success of St Ivel Gold, a low fat spread developed in Sweden and brought to Britain six years ago. Gold has single handedly developed this sector of the market, with sales growing by 25 per cent a year. It now has sales of nearly £30m a year, making it as big a brand in value terms as Stork margarine.

St Ivel is not alone, however, in successfully capitalizing on the trend to healthier eating. The first leading brand to be developed on this platform was Van den Bergh's Flora margarine 10 years ago. Flora calls itself "the margarine for men", being high in polyunsaturated fats. Flora is now the third largest brand in the margarine market.

Kellogg's has also adjusted its marketing programme to take account of the trend, by advertising its bran-based products more heavily.

In this case, the health concern is not fats but fibre, and in particular the impact of the F-Plan diet in 1982, which extolled the virtues of products such as baked beans and bran cereals. Kellogg's had already been planning to advertise products such as All Bran, Bran Flakes and Sultana Bran more heavily, but with the arrival of the F-Plan diet it put even more money behind them, more than doubling the previous year's budget. Sales of Bran Flakes rose by 40 per cent last year and have doubled in two years.

Both Kellogg's and St Ivel maintain that healthy eating is now a matter of concern to consumers in general, and not just a small section of the population. "For some time there have been indications that housewives are becoming more and more health conscious in their choice of food for their families", says Mr David Merriott, St Ivel's marketing director.

"Following a number os statements and reports, such as the one issued by the Royal College of Physicians a year ago, saying that the nation should reduce the amount of fat it consumed, housewives have responded by regulating family diets. While less than 10 per cent of housewives are strictly dieting, our research shows that over two-thirds are now actively regulating their family diets for health or weight reasons."

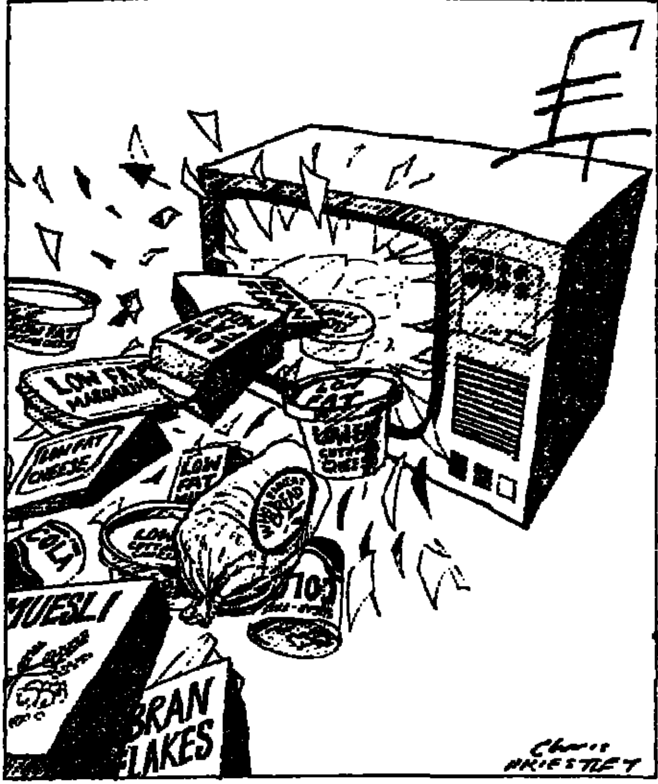
Mr David Clark, director of sales and marketing for Kellogg's, says: "There is an awareness about the need for a balanced diet among the whole population, and not just a small health-conscious section. People are taking notice of what the nutritionists are saying.

"Bran products are the fastest-growing sector of our market at the moment, closely followed by muesli products, which are perceived as being a healthy cereal because they are made from natural ingredients. However, I have to say that we are also seeing growth in some

Sales of Bran Flakes have doubled in two years

of pre-sweetened products, so it is not all in one direction – people are looking for a balanced diet, not just for healthy foods."

In particular, manufacturers are discovering, people will not move over to a healthier product unless they like the taste. For this reason, both Bran Flakes and St Ivel Gold – And now Shape products – are being promoted on their taste as much as their healthy qualities. The Bran Flakes television commercial, for example: "There tasty, tasty, very very tasty", while the advertising



strategy of Gold is "Half the fat but all the taste."

The taste problem has dogged the soft drinks business for many years, with "diet" versions based on saccharine being distinctive for their unpleasant aftertaste. The launch of the new aspartame 'Nutrasweet' sweetner last autumn will shake-up this sector considerably, since that after-taste is substantially reduced.

Pepsi-Cola relaunched its Diet Pepsi brand in November last year with a new formula, blending Nutrasweet with saccharine, and it is running a television, press and promotion campaign for the brand, on the platform of the "new great taste".

The company claims its brand is the first leading national diet soft drink without the characteristic aftertaste – although Coca-Cola is expected to respond with its own NutraSweet version soon – and that diet colas will take a far greater share of the market in future.

In Canada, where a similar Nutra Sweet-based Diet Pepsi product has been on sale for two years, sales of diet colas have increased by 88 per cent in the last twelve months, abd now represents 19 per cent of cola sales. In Britain, where the sector is worth £20m and already growing at 30 per cent a year, the diet share is still just 7 per cent. Pepsi estimates that if Britain responds similarly to Canada, an extra £15m of diet sales could be generated in the next year.

The bread market is also showing the trend to healthier, better-balanced diets. Whole-

The greatest interest is centred on dairy products

meal and wheatmeal loaves are now eaten in twice as many households as they were five years ago, and the long-term decline in bread consumption is levelling out.

Nevertheless, it is in the dairy markets, and in particular the "yellow fats" market, which includes butter, margarine and the low-fat spreads, that the greatest interest is centred. The yellow-fats and cheese markets are each worth over £600m a year and it is here that much of the confusion and controversy which foods are better for you is centred.

For example, although Flora is high in polyunsaturated fats, it is still high in fats, and therfore calories. Gold, by contrast, contains less than half the fats of butter or margarine, though largely, it must be said, because it is 51 per cent water.

"The debate between butter and margarine has become very confused by the polyunsaturates issue", says Mr Anthony Horwich, marketing manager for the St Ivel Shape range. "The reason Gold has become successful is because it has drawn itself away from that argument by stating quite clearly that it has less than half the fats of butter and margarine and that it tastes good. We believe that with a similar platform, the Shape range will do very well."

St Ivel Shape Milk is a fresh milk, not a UHT or skimmed milk product, which contains just over 1 per cent fat, compared to just under 4 per cent in full cream milk. This market has increased by 50 per cent in the last year, but still accounts for only 4 per cent of total milk sales, compared with 63 per cent in France and 38 per cent in Holland and Germany.

Shape cheese is a cheddar-type cheese that was test-marketed in Wales and the West Country a year ago. It has half the fat content of standard cheddar and in its first six months it took 13 per cent of the branded pre-packed cheese market in the region, as well as obtaining distribution throughout the area. Its main competitor is Tendale, which is already nationally marketed by the Dairy Crest off shoot of the Milk Marketing Board. There are also cottage and soft cheeses in the Shape range.

It is not just manufacturers who have started to capitalize on the concern for health, however.

Sainsbury has had great success with its own brand of low fat milk, Vitapint, while Boots is developing a range of shops-within-shops called Boots Food Centres, which will concentrate on healthy and natural foods, such as wholemeal breads, muesli and bran cereals, broadening the range of the health foods it has sold in many stores for several years.

As Mr Clark points out, however, the trend is not all in one direction. This week also sees the launch of an extension of one of the most successful of all new products in recent years – McCains's Oven Chips.

£1.23m loss taints Immediate success

Immediate Business Systems, the portable computer billing system company, made pretax losses of £1.23m in the six months to last September.

The shares, which are quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, plunged 17p to a low of 83p. The company has been a darling of the technology stock watchers and the shares have been as high as 330p.

The company makes billing systems for utility companies which allows meter-readers to produce an immediate bill. It has also developed a tough portable computer which should provide an increasing proportion of its business.

Mr Gordon Griffiths, the newly appointed executive vice-chairman, said: "To put it in a nutshell, market penetration has been slower than the directors had anticipated. The delay in income has been overcome by the cost of penetrating markets but the orders are beginning to come in."

The loss for the first six months last year was £794,000 on turnover of £206,000. Turnover for this six months was £294,000.

The company said last year that it had £5m worth of potential contracts – these have realised £4m worth of business and there are potential new orders worth a further £4.5m.

In brief

● **American Brands:** The net income of US packaged goods and services company reached a record \$390m or \$6.76 per common share in 1983, compared with \$381m or \$6.55 per share in 1982.

Net sales for the year were a record \$7.1 billion, up 9 per cent from \$6.5 billion in 1982.

Despite substantially higher income taxes in the quarter ended December 31, net income was up slightly to a record \$104m or \$1.81 per common share, compared with \$103.8m or \$1.80 in 1982. Pretax rose 8 per cent to a record \$177m and net sales rose 11 per cent to \$1.8 billion from \$1.6 billion.

Mr Edward Whittemore, the chairman, said: "Our units performed exceptionally well during 1983. Operating income records were posted by the American Tobacco Company, Jim Beam, Sunshine Biscuits and Titleist Golf, which sold a record 82 million golf balls. In office products, our three US companies and two in Great Britain all posted sharp increases.

"Overall, our large UK subsidiary, Gallaher, had a superb year, with net income up 38 per cent. Despite a 13 per cent decline in the average exchange rate for the British pound, net income was up 23 per cent in dollars."

● **Stocklake Holdings:** Six months to September 30, 1983. Interim dividend 3p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 12,018 (13,857). Pretax profit 1,466 (1,930). Tax 773 (1,000). Earnings per share 16.5p (22p).

As reported in the chairman's statement with the accounts, trading conditions during the first half of the present financial year continued to be difficult.

● **Hammerson Property:** Hammerson's offer, through its wholly owned subsidiary Hammerson Canada, to acquire the common shares of Mascan Corporation has become unconditional.

Acceptances of 99 per cent have been received and the offer remains open for acceptances received on or before February 2. The Board has allotted the 1,391m new ordinary and 4.97m new A ordinary (limited voting) shares which were placed through Kleinwort Benson.

● **Quest Automation:** The company has signed an agreement to acquire Raw Computers by its subsidiary Quest International Computers. Raw designs and manufactures a range of technologically advanced microcomputer peripherals.

The acquisition will be completed on March 1 by means of a share issue by Quest Automation of 375,000 Quest ordinary in exchange for 100 per cent of the Raw issued share capital.

● **Heelamat Holdings:** Results for 26 weeks to October 29, 1983. Interim 2p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 2,601 (2,411). Pretax profit 136 (75). Tax 71 (39). Undiluted 2.1p (1.2p). Fully diluted 1.2p (0.6p). Shares 80p on 3p.

The company has continued to upgrade the quality of its units by refurbishment and has re-sited others. The company trades from 100 units having opened five and closed three smaller ones.

● **Juliana's Holdings:** The company has acquired the business of Dyas Marquees for £180,000.

Dyas supplies Marquees on hire terms to a wide range of customers and is based in Southampton. Included in the price is a freehold property in Southampton.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK ● edited by Michael Prest

Amax spadework should pay dividends

Amax gave us an uncharacteristic glimpse of its corporate petticoat yesterday. Not only did Mr Pierre Gousseland, chairman and president, declare unequivocally that American natural resources group would be in the black this year, but he also flashed a few tantalizing figures.

Of the three legs on which Amax stands – energy, aluminium and metals – the first two will be much the most alluring. The sale of half its American oil and gas assets fro $83m to form a joint venture with Britoil notwithstanding, Amax expects to make more than $200m from energy this year.

Coal is obviously important here, even though the world coal market remains depressed. Last year energy contributed $177m pretax, a fall of 6m.

The group's share of Alumax should bring in at least another $100m. Aluminium, whose pretax earnings partly saved Amax last year almost doubling from $34m to $64m, is destined to play an important role in the corporation's future.

The 25 per cent stake in the new aluminium smelter at Becanour in Quebec which Alumax is taking for $240m points to a determined strategy of diversification away from the traditional heavy industrial customers.

But sensible as it is for Amax to develop counter-cyclical markets after the beating it has taken over the past two years, culminating in 1983's $349m pretax loss, the fact remains that on its massive investment in nickel, copper and above all molybdenum – which together represents $1,000m or a third of Amax's assets – the company is earning a negative return.

Possibly the most significant indicator for this year, therefore, is the suggestion that losses on the metals side will be much less. Last year operating losses on metals fell from $143m to $105m.

Equally encouraging to shareholders shocked by $309m of the final quarter write-offs is the prospect of a further decline in debt.

After falling by $186m last year to about $1,400m the total is expeced to shrink by another $200m in the first half.

So much for this year. Looking further ahead, Amax has the opportunity of more energy developments through the Britoil joint venture, isuing some of its $1,000m credit line on acquiring assets in new technologies such as ceramics and carbon fibres, and, when all is said and done, it has very modern metal reserves.

Barring a disaster in the metal markets, Amax should turn the corner this year.

Steetley

The ease with which London Brick has so far managed to resist a £212m takeover bid from Hanson Trust, must be the cause of some celebration for Mr David Donne. As chairman of Steetley, the Nottinghamshire-based building materials group, he could soon be facing his own unwanted takeover bid.

The Monoplies and Mergers Commission report on whether Hepworth Ceramic should be allowed to acquire Steetley is befor Mr Norman Tebbit, the trade and industry secretary, who is expected to make a decision in a couple of weeks.

It is difficult to see how the commission could have reached any conclusion other than that the bid should be given the green light. But even in the unlikely event of bids being blocked, the Steetley share price may well be sustained at its present 280p by the demonstration effect of the astonishing £36m forecast for 1984 profits that London Brick has made in its own defence.

That forecast must assume a reasonable rise in brick prices this year, which in turn will help Steetley's brickmaking business and add perhaps £2m to £3m to brokers' predictions of £28m pretax in 1984.

The price earnings multiple would fall at 280p to 8, assuming a hefty 35 per cent tax charge. The yield at this price, even if the company does no more than restore the dividend to its 1981 level, would be 5.4 per cent.

Such a rating for a company of this type at one time have seemed a little ambitious. But then nobody would have believed tha London Brick could successfully resist a takeover bid at 145p a share six months ago.

According to figures published yesterday by Hanson, its bid has so far received a dismal 2 per cent acceptances and with the asset valuation and dividend forecast for 1984 yet to come, the tide is very much in favour of Londong Brick retaining its independence. Hanson must either raise its bid or go away. Beyound that, the whole sector deserves reassessment in the light of these events.

RECENT ISSUES

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Sterling: Spot and Forward

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Other Markets

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Gold

FOOTBALL: LIVERPOOL REACH AN ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT IN MILK CUP SEMI-FINAL

Proceed with caution – third division club ahead

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Even though they are at home in the first leg of their Milk Cup semi-final against Walsall, Liverpool should proceed with caution tonight. Both of the roads that lead to Wembley cross the third division minefield and Manchester United, twice, as well as Arsenal (and Everton) have already failed to spot the trip wires.

As Liverpool have not been beaten in the competition for four years, have lost only one of their last 65 cup ties at Anfield and are clear favourites to retain the trophy, there should be no doubt about the outcome. But in the last few months logic has been blown apart.

The most unexpected explosion occured nine days ago when Liverpool's own ambitions of claiming the FA Cup for the first time for a decade were shattered at Brighton. Although their central defenders made two unusual and crucial errors, it was on the flanks that they looked most vulnerable.

Alan Buckely, Walsall's manager, took note of the weakness and decided to rest Rees last Saturday. "He is our only wide player," he explained, "and we could not risk losing him". That is not the only important role Rees has played in their progress to the last four.

He has scored a third of their 15 goals so far, including the first in their victory over Arsenal and a brace at Rotherham in the quarter-final. As well as missing Dalglish and Souness, Liverpool may be without Lawrenson, who is suffering from a groin strain.

If so, Gillespie, signed from Coventry City for £300,000 in the summer, will make his debut. But Walsall's main fear is the prolific Rush. Buckley commented: "Every week managers work out how to stop him and he has still scored 30 goals. What can I say?" What, indeed?

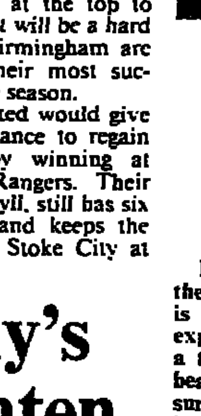
On their last visit to Anfield, in 1968, Walsall faced a similar problem in an FA Cup tie that was almost obscured by fog. They lost 5-2 and their supporters, unaware of events taking place at the far end, kept on asking for the name of the scorer. Four times the Kop replied: "Tony Hateley".

● *Frank Stapleton must take a* late fitness test before Manchester United meet Birmingham City at St Andrews tonight. *The Republic of Ireland forward* had four stitches inserted in a shin wound at half-time in Saturday's home draw with Norwich City.

He trained this morning, but the Manchester United manager, Ron Atkinson, will leave a *final decision for another* 24 hours. Graeme Hogg, a teenager, has been added to the squad that was on duty against Norwich.

Atkinson said: "It is important for us to win and cut Liverpool's lead at the top to two points. *But it will be a hard* game because Birmingham are now enjoying their most successful run of the season.

A slip by United would give West Ham a chance to regain second place by winning at Queen's Park Rangers. Their manager, John Lyll, still has six players injured and keeps the side which beat Stoke City at the weekend.



West Germany's prospects brighten

WORLD FOOTBALL
Brian Glanville

West Germany's chance of retaining their European Championship is beginning to look a little better. Three of the players who had such a large part *in their victory in* Italy in 1980 now seem likely to be on duty, and effectual, next June in France: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, *Hansi Müller and Bernd Schuster.*

Since the 1982 World Cup Müller has gone to Internazionale of Milan where his knee trouble has badly affected his performance. Last September, he had such an appalling game for West Germany in a friendly against Hungary in Budapest that the manager Jupp Derwall *promptly dropped him. But he has* suddenly begun playing so superbly for Inter that he will have to be recalled to a waning German midfield.

Schuster, who is now coveted by PSV Eindhoven and could leave Barcelona at the end of the present season, has made his peace with *Derwell and is eager to play.*

As for Rummenigge, after months of eing only half fit, he suddenly blossomed to his best with a *glorious exhibioon and* two fine goals at Leverkusen, where Bayern Munich won recently, 5-1.

At Barcelona, conquerors of Bilbao, Cesar Menotti, manager of the Argentina World Cup winning team of 1978 – and of thhe team who lost the trophy in 1982 – had been under heavy pressure. Defeats such as those by *Osasuna* and by the local rivals, a much less favoured *and fashionable Espanol*, had bitten deep. Then came the dramatic and surprising win away to Athletic Bilbao; courtesy of Maradena's finishing.

Ironically, Menotti had been criticised in Spain precisely on the grounds that he built his team – in vain – around Maradona. Maradona's most cutting reply came in the form of the two goals which beat Athletic in Bilbao 2-1; fine revenge for the kick by Bilbao's Goicoechea *which put him out of the game so* long, and a welcome reprieve for Menotti.

In France the squalid affair of Saint Etienne and their "black economy" grinds its way on in Lyon, with Roger Rocher, the former president of the club, still in gaol for his alleged peculations, and Michel Platini and company being hauled before the examining magistrate. In the case of Platini, who has had such a prolic season for Juventus, there is talk not only of an under the counter payment of some £25,000, but of doubts about his original transer to Saint Etienne from Nancy.

When Platini went to Lyon to make his pce with the tax authorities, it is believed to have cost him some £115,000, plus a heavy fine. It is believed, however, that none of the players will actuly go to gaol for their lleged offences, which would at least allow a somewhat shaken Platini to play in the European Championship finals, next summer.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

BELGIAN: CS Bruges 2, RWD Molenbeek 0; Lokeren 1, Waregem 0; Ghent 1, Seraing 2; Kortrijk 0, FC Bruges 1; Anderlecht 2, Beveren 2; Beerschot 4, Beringen 0; Lierse 1, Malines 3; FC Liège 1, Antwerp 3; Waterschei 0, Standard Liege 2.

DUTCH: PSV Eindhoven 3, Utrecht 3; Go Ahead Eagles 2, PEC Zwolle 0; Excelsior 2, Sparta 1; Roda JC Kerkrade 2, DS'79 Dordrecht 1; AZ'67 4, Willem II 0; Ajax 5, Helmond Sport [illegible]; [illegible] Groningen [illegible]; Haarlem 1, Fortuna Sittard [illegible]; Feyenoord [illegible]; Den Bosch [illegible].

FRENCH: Brest 1, Rennes 1; Metz 1, Lille 0; Monaco 0, Paris Saint-Germain 1; Rouen 1, Bordeaux 0; Toulouse 1, Nancy 0; Nantes 1, Sochaux 1; Laval 1, Nîmes 0; Lens 2, Strasbourg 2; Toulon 1, Bastia 0; Saint-Etienne 0, Auxerre [illegible].

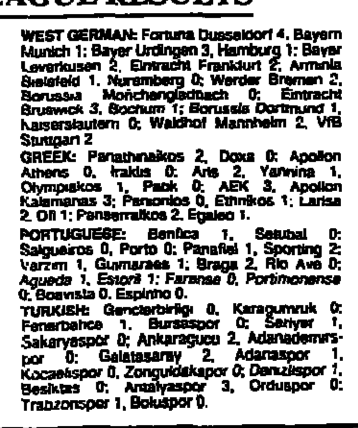
SPANISH: Valencia 1, Málaga 1; Real Sociedad 1, Real Betis 0; Cadiz 2, Real Madrid 3; Real Zaragoza 1, Real Valladolid 1; Salamanca 0, Espanol [illegible]; Sporting Gijon 1, Barcelona 2; Real Murcia [illegible]; Atletico Madrid 1, Athletic Bilbao 0; Sevilla 0, Real Mallorca 0; Osasuna 0, Español 0.

WEST GERMAN: Fortuna Dusseldorf 4, Bayern Munich 1; Bayer Urdingen 3, Hamburg 1; Bayer Leverkusen 2, Eintracht Frankfurt 2; Arminia Bielefeld 1, Nuremberg 0; Werder Bremen 2, Borussia Monchengladbach 0; Eintracht Brunswick 3, Bochum 1; Borussia Dortmund 1, Kaiserslautern 0; Waldhof Mannheim 2, VfB Stuttgart 2.

GREEK: Panathinaikos 2, Doxa 0; Apollon Athens 0, Iraklis 0; Aris 2, Yannina 1, Olympiakos 1, Paok 0; AEK 3, Apollon Kalamaria 0; Panionios 0, Ethnikos 1; Larisa 2, Pierikos [illegible]; Panserraikos 2, Egaleo 1.

PORTUGUESE: Benfica 1, Setubal 0; Salgueiros 0, Porto 0; Penafiel 1, Sporting 2; Varzim 1, Guimaraes 1; Braga 2, Rio Ave 0; Agueda 1, Estoril 1; Farense 0, Portimonense 0; Boavista 0, Espinho 0.

TURKISH: Genclerbirligi 0, Karagumruk 0; Fenerbahce 1, Bursaspor 0; Sariyer 1, Sakaryaspor 0; Ankaragucu 2, Adanademirspor 0; Galatasaray 2, Adanaspor 1; Kocaelispor 0, Zonguldakspor 0; Denizlispor 1, Besiktas 0; Antalyaspor 3, Orduspor 0; Trabzonspor 1, Boluspor 0.



Buckley (right) and Pendrey: leading Walsall to an historic match

Buckley takes a low road to the heights of Anfield

In normal circumstances, "It wasn't so much the result as the way we played that pleased me" is an unexceptional sentiment frequently expressed by football managers. From the lips of a third division manager whose team has just beaten Arsenal at Highbury it might seem more surprising but Walsall's performance that night in Nvoember justified Alan Buckley's pleasure.

The neat, cool, skilful play with which the team earned that Milk Cup victory – and a semi-final tie at Liverpool tonight – bore the imprint of their player-manager. Yet there was a touch of irony about it, for Buckley was on the bench "purring at the way we played" rather than adding his talents to the fray. Now a "young, hungry" team are going to Anfield for the greatest night in the club's history.

As a member of some very ordinary Walsall sides throughout the seventies, Buckley gained a reputation as one of the best players to be found in the lower reaches of the league. Until recently he averaged more than one goal every two games for the club.

Despite frequent rumours of moves, he seemed *content to remain in the third division:* "I'd had seven years at Nottingham Forest scratching around in the reserves, playing the odd game in the first team. In the end I had enough of *messing around at a big club, and I joined* Walsall when I was 22. I got 25 or 30 goals a season."

If that suggests a lack of ambition, subsequent *events were to show that Buckley certainly did* not lack tenacity. Finally he did make the step up, joining neighbouring Birmingham City in preference to Luton Town in 1978 for £175,000, *still a Walsall record*. Although he acquitted himself satisfactorily, eight goals in 24 games making him the team's leading scorer in their relegation year, *it was "not a happy time"* and he returned to Walsall the following summer, this time as player-manager.

Walsall too had just been relegated. The absence of Buckley's goals had taken them down to the fourth division, but his return saw them regaining their third division place at the first attempt. This success was, however, only the prelude to traumatic events, the club avoiding relegation on the last day of the season in both 1980-81 and 1981-82.

After the stuggles of 1980-81, when only a penalty save by Ron Green in the dying minutes of their last match at Sheffield United saved them, Buckley wanted to bring in Gary Pendrey, an erstwhile Birmingham City colleague, as his assistant.

Walsall's directors had other ideas, and appointed Neil Martin, another former Forest player, as joint manager. "It was a farce," Buckley says. He withdrew at Christmas as the team struggled once more. Again the last day of the season brought safety. Martin *left for Kuwait* and Buckley was offered his job back.

Again the team, although virtually a new one, assembled in the summer, began disastrously. Buckley was *at last permitted to bring in* Pendrey as player-coach, and the new partnership achieved a respectable tenth position in the final league table. Early portents this season *were unpromising as the team crashed 8-1 at* Bolton and 6-3 at Oxford. Now, however, they are leading the third division and, as everyone knows, Milk Cup semi-finalists.

Peter Ball

Two goals by Sheedy put Everton through

By John Clemison

Gillingham 0
Everton 3

A fierce wind at their backs in the first half could not prolong Gillingham's FA Cup run at Priestfield Stadium last night. Everton's three goals in the teeth of the gale during the first 45 minutes were enough to see them through the second replay of their fourth round tie and on to meet *Shrewsbury Town* in the last 16.

The third division side fought hard to get back into contention during the second half, but could not bend the elements to their will. Facing a barrage of gargantuan kicks from the boot of Fry, the Gillingham goalkeeper, Everton showed a calm authority in maintaining the cushion provided for them by two goals from Sheedy and one from Heath.

It took Everton just 27 minutes to show why they are in the first division and Gillingham are in the third.

While Gillingham were still riding on the back of their own success, or to be more exact, their ability to stop with three well made goals in just eleven minutes.

Until the first however, the Everton manager Howard Kendall must have been pinching himself in disbelief at what he had seen. For having endured 210 minutes of goalless football before arriving at Gillingham for the second time in the battle to play Shrewsbury Town in the next round, he saw the game degenerating into a lottery.

What was making matters worse was that Everton faced a howling gale. It was a wind that rattled through Gillingham's stand and caused the pendant lights to swing madly in the roof. Luckily, Gillingham had no more control over the wind than those lights had, and were unable to use their advantage in the first half. So incapable were they of controlling the long ball that they had the appearance of a bunch of school boys.

In fact the main threat to Everton in the first half hour seemed to come from their own complacency, rather than any sustained pressure Gillingham could exert. Several times, Southall had to move quickly to prevent a back pass from one of his owm defenders beating him.

After 25 minutes, Everton started to gel. Sheedy, Gray and Heath began to worry the Gillingham defense. The first goal came after 27 minutes, after Gray had put Sheedy *clear within sight of goal. Five* mintues later, it was Heath's turn to benefit, this time from Reid's skilful cross, again assisted by Gray. Seven minutes before the break, Sheedy scored his second, to give Everton a 3-0 lead at the break.

GILLINGHAM: D Fry; M Sage, B Sparrow, S Bruce, R Musker, P Shaw, T Cochrane, J Johnson, J Leslie, D Mehmet, A Cascarino.
EVERTON: N Southall; G Stevens, J Bailey, K Ratcliffe, D Mountfield, P Reid, A Irvine, A Heath, A Gray, K Richardson, K Sheedy.
Referee: R Lewis (Great Bookham).

League not to join the search

The Football league have declined a Sports Council invitation to help in the search for the ideal artificial surface. *Sir Walter Winterbottom*, a former England manager, heads a working party that includes representatives from the Football Association, the Professional Footballers' Association, the League Executive Staffs' Association and the Sports Council.

The £45,000 investigation, announced *yesterday*, also involves a squad of League players. But the League, themselves, want to remain neutral. "The management committee will soon have to make a decision on the suitability of artificial surfaces at league grounds and it would be wrong of us to become involved at this stage," a *spokesman, Andy Williamson, said.*

The Sports Council's analysis comes in the wake of the League's decision to give permission in *principle for Luton to install* an artificial pitch at an indoor stadium in Milton Keynes.

The outcome could affect Queen's Park Rangers' plans to continue playing on their own artificial surface next season.

Rangers' three-year trial period expires at the end of the season and *clubs will be asked for their views of* the surface.

Willie Garner, Scotland's youngest league manager, quit Alloa *Athletic yesterday. The club* are at the foot of the first division. He will join the premier division leaders, Aberdeen. Garner, aged 28, a former Aberdeen defender has been appointed assistant manager to Alex Ferguson. He succeeds Archie Knox

Trophy holders receive a home draw

Telford United, the holders of the FA Trophy, were yesterday drawn at home to Bromsgrove Rovers in the third round of this season's competition on February 25. Bromsgrove, from the Southern League midland division, beat Wycombe Wanderers in the second round on Saturday.

Barnet again had the luck of the draw, with a *home tie against* Kidderminster Harriers. They have already accounted for Dartford and North Shields at Underhill. The East London club, Fisher Athletic, who are in the Trophy for the first time, will be at home it they overcome Windsor and Eton in a replay.

DRAW: A P Leamington v Chelmsford or Hendon; Whitby v Frickley; Dulwich Hamlet or Chorley v Northwich Victoria; Maidstone or Nuneaton v Dagenham or Yeovil; Telford v Bromsgrove; Barnet v Kidderminster; Carshalton or Gateshead v Bangor City; Windsor and Eton or Fisher v Bishop Auckland or Grantham Manne. (To be played on Febuary 25).

England's Latin test

By Stuart Jones

England, *one of the five nations* invited to take part in a tournament to celebrate Brazil's seventieth anniversary, face the prospect of playing for a mere three hours in South America next summer. With only the group winners qualifying for the final, Bobby Robson's side are to meet the hosts and Uruguay.

Diplomacy rather than ability has been used to draw a line between the six participants. For fear of hostilities breaking out on the sporting field, England have, as expected, been kept apart from Argentina, who will be included in a weaker group with the improving Netherlands and Mexico, beaten 5-0 by Italy in Rome last weekend.

Brazil, who have received promises of attendance from each country if not the blessing of FIFA, have an equally delicate reason for wishing to avoid the Mexicans. They would prefer to remain on amicable terms with the hosts of the next World Cup now and gain the support of the local citizens in 1986.

The group matches, which start on June 9, are to be staged in Rio de *Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Minas* Geraias. The final, on June 20, which is expected to be between Brazil and Argentina, will be the only game to be played in the famous Maracana stadium.

Even though television rights have yet to be secured, the reward for the two sides competing on that *Wednesday night will be $100,000* in addition to the $200,000 that each of the entrants are guaranteed.

● Wales are to make a final effort to save the British Championship (the Press Association reports). Alun Evans, the Wales FA secretary, has formulated a plan that should prove "financially attractive" to *England and Sotland – and he aims* to present it to the home associations in Glasgow next Tuesday.

● Everton have been drawn at home to either Newcastle or Southampton in the quarter-finals of the FA Youth Cup.

FA YOUTH CUP: Quarter final draw: Arsenal v Aston Villa; Everton v Newcastle or Southampton; Chelsea v Stoke; *Barnsley or Manchester United v Sunderland* (matches to be played on or before March 3).

BADMINTON

Championships to include drug tests

By Richard Eaton

Drug testing is to be introduced at the European championships – sponsored to the tune of £40,000 by British Airways' shuttle service, the largest sum ever – in Preston in April.

It is probably coincidence that the welcome announcement of the sponsorship, three quarters of which will be in the form of air tickets, *thus ensuring the participation of* all leading players, should occur alongside the announcement about drug testing.

Testing for illegal drugs has been in existence before in badminton in this country, both in the Thomas Cup and the All-England championships, and apparently on four separate occasions since being introduced to the All-England in 1980, results have proved positive.

No disqualifications have taken place, *partly because by the time the* results had been obtained, everyone had gone home anyway. Retroactive punishment was considered unnecessary, because the results were brought about by *normal* medication.

Others, however, may prove to be different. "We have certainly had our suspicions in the past", the Badminton Association of England promotions manager, Tom Marrs, said "We are putting ourselves out to take precautions to deter players, and to support the Sports Council in its views on this". The BA of E and the European Badminton Union are also *understandably keen* to keep the image of their sport and this event a clean one.

Clean it has mostly been, but trouble-free it has not. The last *time* the European championships were held in Preston, in 1978, sensations were commonplace. The Swiss team *were sent home for riotous* behaviour. Russians were caught, charged and fined for shoplifting, and Keven Jolly of England was banned for racket throwing. England regainded the European title, 3-2 from Denmark, having been 2-0 down, and on the very day that they did so, dismissed both their *manager*, Judy Hasham, and their coach, Maurice Robinson.

IN BRIEF

Price says Christie can wait

Jimmy Price, aged 23 a former Commonwealth Games gold medalist, who is in the shadow of Britain's other leading middleweight boxers Mark Kaylor, Tony Sibson and Errol Christie, is content to bide his time.

Price seeks his eleventh sucessive win as a *professional when he meets* the Puerto Rican, Manuel "Yuca" Jiminez, in the New Century Hall, Manchester Thursday night.

"My time will come." Price said today. "Give me eight or nine months. A fight with Christie will be the big one, and I know I can take him. I didn't avoid him as an amateur, as he has been claiming."

TENNIS: Jo Durie, who flew home yesterday, will be returning to the United States at the end of next week, to play an event in New Jersey before the start of the Virginia Slims circuit. Her physiotherapist has confirmed that her *back pains are not serious.*

SHOW JUMPING: A ten-event sponsorship, including a final championship at Wembley's Horse of the Year show, is being extended for a futher two years by Crosse and Blackwell. After last year's initial entry into the sport, they have raised their financial commitment to £125,000 for the three years.

SNOOKER: Mike Watterson has reached the final stages of the Yamaha international masters. Watterson came out on top of a three-man round robin qualifying group in Batley. The tournament begins in Derby on February 27.

ATHLETICS: Fraser Clyne, of Scotland, leading a field of 5,000 runners, cut three minutes off his own time, to become the first to win the Oakland marathon a second time. Clyne, aged 28, from Aberdeen, broke away from the American, Brad Hawthorne, and Jan-Ivar Westlund, of Sweden, in the twentieth mile of Sunday's race. His second victory in seven marathons was in a time of 2hr 15min 21sec.

BASKETBALL

Solent can now reach for the sky

By Nicholas Harling

Two victories at the weekend took Sperrings Solent Stars to within reach of their first league title and with it the double. Fresh from last week's exhilarating eight-point victory in Zagreb in the European Cup winners' cup, which was not quite good enough to take them into the semi-finals, Solent returned home to defeat Blue Nun Crystal Palace, the current champions, and Manchester Giants, in the National League, sponsored by Wimpey Homes.

Should the league leaders win both this week's games against Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead, at home tomorrow and away on Saturday, they could complete the formality of their first championship triumph by the following Saturday when they receive Brighton.

It was not without a stern fight, *however, that Palace succumbed to* Solent in the fifth meeting between the clubs this season. Although without the suspended McCray, the defending champions brought Bucknell back from high school in Boston to help them lead 36-34 at the interval.

With Spaid in foul trouble after the resumption, Palace eventually faltered, conceding 11 successive points before profiting from slipshod play by the hosts to reduce the deficit to three. It was then, with the capacity 1,700 crowd urging them on, that Johnson, Robinson, Tatham and Griffiths swept Solent to their 82-71 success.

It was much the same story the next evening as Solent experienced early resistance at Manchester before pulling away to win by 16 *points. Manchester had also lost at* home the previous evening to Warrington, but Dave Gardner, their forward who has just been selected for the England squad for the European championships, enjoyed the unusual distinction of outscoring his club's Americans in both games.

BOWLS

A wager for old foes

By Gordon Allan

The world indoor singles championship, sponsored by Embassy, begins at Coatbridge this morning and Bob Sutherland, the defending champion, and David Bryant, who *has won the event three times, could* meet for the first prize of £5,000 in the final next Sunday. In the top half of the draw Sutherland has a first round match against Sammy Allen, of Ireland. In the bottom half Bryant plays the Welsh champion, Terry Sullivan.

Last year Sutherland beat Bryant *21-20 in the semi-final round after* trailing 18-11. In the final of the United Kingdom singles at Preston in November, Bryant outplayed Sutherland. It is notoriously risky to use anything except a pin to forecast the winner in this game.

Last year's runner-up Burnham Gill, of Canada, cannot come *because of domestic commitments.* In his place is David Brown, an Englishman who emigrated some years ago and lives in Vancouver. He played for Hampshire in the Middleton Cup (county championship) and for Canada in the world outdoor championship pairs at Brisbane in 1980, when they won the silver medal.

Several of the competitors will be seen in the world outdoor championships at Aberdeen next July. Among them is Edwin Chok, of Hongkong, whose brother, Philip, finished second to Bryant at Coatbridge in 1980. Ken Williams, of Australia, will be remembered from the Kodak Masters at Worthing in 1981; his first *match* is with *Jim Baker*, of Ireland, runner-up to John Watson at Coatbridge two years ago.

A good outside bet, at least to *reach the final, is Cliff Simpson*, a tenacious and precise player, who all but beat Bryant in the English singles last March.

FIRST ROUND: Today: E Chok (Hong) v C Simpson (Eng); R Sutherland (Scot) v S Allen (Ire); J Baker (Ire) v K Williams (Aus). Tomorrow: J Jones (Jer) v J Boyle (Scot); T Sullivan (Wales) v D Bryant (Eng); I Dickson (NZ) v D Corkhill (Ire); W Wood (Scot) v D Brown (Can). Thursday: N Smith (Eng) v T Beattie (Guer).

Chasing wild rainbows in the not so wild West

CONRAD VOSS BARK begins a weekly column on fishing with some views on the sport in the United States.

FISHING

An English fly fisherman visiting the United States must be prepared *for surprises. Most of them will be* agreeable. To begin with, he will be able to fish for large trout, seven or eight pounders, in some of the most beautiful rivers in the world, for a long as he wants to stay – a week, a month, six months – simply by paying for a state licence which will cost him slightly more than he would pay for a couple of day tickets on Rutland Water. That, for a start, will make him sit up and think.

What is virtually free fishing does mean that some popular places are at times what one might call elbow to elbow – the old crack about the river which was not as broad as the *New Jersey Turnpike* yet which carried more traffic. However, the advantages of the system outweight the occasional overcrowding during *the holidays.*

Rivers designated as "no kill" areas preserve the wild stocks of fish; but possibly a greater advantage, at least from the social point of view, may be one described rather graphically at dinner one night with a senior member of the Theodore Gordon Flyfishers. "Over here," he said, "you will find dry fly purists from the garbage men upwards."

This egalitarian attitude, the freedom of a continent of rivers, the heart-stirring beauty of the American countryside, are all entrancing, but the Englishman, when he actually gets *down to the stern* business of fishing, must be prepared for a certain amount of little local difficulty. This is where, so to speak, he will come up against it.

There are large, wild, fierce-rivers, with even fiercer fish, where it is necessary to cast a 24 midge at least 24 yards – it seems much further than that – to trout which are rising 25 yards distant. On these rivers the horizon is the far bank.

There are other rivers, perhaps less wide but even wilder, where it is necessary to wade through icy white water foaming between slippery rocks, casting a fly into vivid whirlpools, watched by black bears. This kind of fishing can be, to say the least, unnerving. It is also likely to expose weaknesses, either in ones courage or ones casting, most probably in both.

This is where the American dry fly purist – garbage or upwards makes no difference – has the edge. He goes to instructors, learns the secrets of double hauling, whatever they may be, is able to distinguish between a trico and a jassid, uses 6X tippets to take 6lb wild rainbows, and all in all, compared to his English counterpart, is pretty highly trained. He has to be. He makes a point of it. A matter of pride. An instinct for perfection.

The fact is there is much to learn from the professionalism of the average American fly fisher and the nice thing about him is that he is more than willing to teach, especially to the sons and daughters of Walton and Berners, if she had any.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sponsors to end support for Challenge Cup

By Keith Macklin

A three-man appeals committee *will meet* on Friday to consider the appeal by Leigh against the findings of the management committee regarding the Oldham v Leigh brawl. The committee imposed a fine of £1,000 on each of the two clubs and declared the match null and void.

One of the leading sponsors of the game have announced the end of a contract which will bring in £130,000 this season and has produced more than £500,000 in six years. State Express are withdrawing their support for the Challenge Cup, a tournament which has had extensive television coverage with the Wembley final as one of the great events on the sporting calendar. The decision appears to be part of a rationalization scheme by State Express covering many operations across the board.

The Rugby League have taken the *blow philosophically*. David Howes, the public relations officer, said that they were disappointed, but the other way was now open for other prospective sponsors, both national and international, to take over the Challenge Cup. "The Wembley final is seen not merely in Britain but also in Australia, New Zealand and America and is an ideal vehicle for sponsorship," Mr Howes said.

FOR THE RECORD

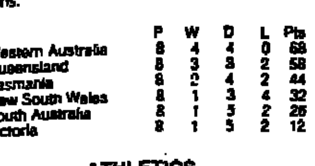


TABLE TENNIS

BRATISLAVA: European top-12 tournament: Final positions: Men: 1, J-O Waldner (Swe); 2, J Panský (Cz); 3, M Appelgren (Swe); 4, A Grubba (Pol); 5, E Lindh (Swe); 6, M Orlowski (Cz); 7, Z Kalinić (Yug); 8, J Secretin (Fr); 9, D Surbek (Yug); 10, U Carlsson (Swe); 11, J Jonyer (Hun); 12, C Prean (GB). Women: 1, M Hrachova (Cz); 2, B Vriesekoop (Neth); 3, V Popova (USSR); 4, F Bulatova (USSR); 5, E Urban (Hun); 6, B Batorfi (Hun); 7, [illegible]; 8, [illegible]; 9, [illegible]; 10, K Kruger (WG); 11, [illegible]; 12, K Witt (GB).

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Queen's Club bt Jeu de Paume de Paris, 4-2. (Queen's Club names first) J May bt A Rabb, 6-2, 6-1; J Grench lost to A Hahn 4-6, 2-6; P Wilson bt K Caillet 6-0, 6-0; R Brown bt B Elsbout, 5-6, 6-4, 6-2; A Ward and M Scott lost to Rabb and Hahn, 4-6, 6-2, 5-6; S de Lazzo and L Wheatley bt Caillet and Elsbout, 6-4, 6-2.

LORD'S: MCC drew with Jeu de Paume de Paris 3-3. (MCC names first): R Wild lost to Hahn 1-6, 2-6; M Cormick bt Rabb, 6-3, 6-1; P Dowling lost to Caillet, 4-6, 2-6; P Allen bt Elsbout, 6-4, 6-2; Wild and R Rainey bt Caillet and Elsbout, 6-5, 3-6, 6-5; T Bruce-Dick and G Chidgey lost to Hahn and Rabb 2-6, 4-6.

RIFLE SHOOTING

BRISBANE: Smallbore match: Teams: 1, New Zealand, 1938.145; 2, Australia, 1937.140; 3, Great Britain, 1931.136; 4, Canada, 1872.112. Individual: New Zealand: E Fugleater, 196.13; P Newman, 196.10; A Owens, 195.14; Australia: P Maher, 195.17; A Hobbs, 195.17; R Rush, 195.12. Great Britain: J Kilian, 196.17; S Belcher, 195.15; I Brown, 195.15. Canada: T Trembley, 196.14; E Brown, 189.14; J Brock, 188.12.

GOLF

LAGOS: Benson and Hedges International: West Africa 19, British Lions 14.

MOTOR RACING

DAYTONA BEACH: Florida: 24-hour endurance race: 1, S van der Merwe, G Duxbury, A Martin (SA), Porsche-March, 640 laps; 2, A J Foyt (US), R Wollek (Fr), D Bell (GB), Porsche 935, 631 laps; 3, R Tullius, B Bundy (US), D Hobbs (GB), Jaguar XJR-5, 612 laps. British positions: 7, J Cooper, R Evans, P Smith, Aston Martin Nimrod, 567 laps.

TENNIS

TORONTO: International tournament. Final: I Lendl (Cz) bt Y Noah (Fr), 6-0, 6-2, 6-4.

RICHMOND: Virginia. International tournament. Singles final: J McEnroe (US) bt S Denton (US), 6-3, 7-6. Doubles final: J and P McEnroe (US) bt K Curren (SA) and S Denton (US), 7-6, 6-2.

HOUSTON: Virginia Slims tournament. Final: H Mandlikova (Cz) bt M Maleeva (Bul), 6-4, 6-2.

INDIANAPOLIS: Women's tournament. Final: J Russell (US) bt P Paradis (Fr), 7-6, 6-2.

SNOOKER

BOLTON: Professional League: J Spencer bt A Higgins, 6-4; K Stevens bt A Knowles, 6-4.

BATLEY: Yamaha International Masters: M Watterson bt M Macleod, 2-1; Macleod bt G Foulds, 2-0; Watterson bt Foulds 2-0.

CRICKET

SHELL SHIELD: (Bassetterre) Barbados 303 and 241 for 5 (H Brathwaite 98 not out, T Payne 75; Leeward Islands 273. (Georgetown) Guyana 265; Windward Islands 80 for 2 (L Sebastien 51 not out). (Port-of-Spain) Jamaica 151 and 186 for 3 (M Neita 70; Trinidad and Tobago 277.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Tasmania 258 and 319 (R Woolley 102, P Faulkner 76; Holland 4 for 88); New South Wales 283 for 2 dec and 268 (J Dyson 80, R McCosker 55; P Clough 5 for 60, S Saunders 5 for 114). Tasmania won by 50 runs.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Western Australia	8	4	4	0	68
Queensland	8	4	2	2	52
Tasmania	9	3	4	2	48
New South Wales	8	1	3	4	32
South Australia	8	1	3	4	28
Victoria	8	1	3	4	20

HOCKEY

COUNTY: Northamptonshire 1, Lincolnshire 4; *Nottinghamshire 'A' 0, Cambridgeshire 'A' 0;* Northamptonshire U21 1, Cambridgeshire U21 2; Cancelled: Berkshire v Hampshire; Hampshire U21 v Kent U21.

EAST COUNTY LEAGUE: Norfolk 2, Suffolk 2; Cancelled: Essex v Bedfordshire.

EAST U21 COUNTY LEAGUE: Norfolk U21 2, Suffolk U21 2; Cancelled: Essex U21 v Bedfordshire U21.

KENT CUP: Quarter-finals: Marden Russets 1, Gore Court 1 aet (Gore Court won 3-2 after penalty strokes); Tulse Hill 2, Blackheath 4, HAMPSHIRE CUP: Semi-final: Fleet 0, Fareham 3.

MIDDLESEX CUP: Quarter-final: Sunbury 4, Staines 2 aet.

VOLLEYBALL

ENGLISH ASSOCIATION: Women's first division: Hemel Hempstead 3, Nottingham 1; Birmingham Al 1, Bradford Mythbreakers 3; Sparta 3, Speedwell 1; Camden 1, Trident 3; Portsmouth Allsports 1, Hemel Hempstead 3; Bradford Mythbreakers 3, Birmingham Al 1; Nottingham 1, Sparta 3; Portsmouth Allsports 0; Trident 3, Speedwell Ruckmor 0; Ashcombe 0, Hillingdon 3.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Dundee Kirkton 3, DV81 0; Airdrie 3, Bellshill Cardinals 0; Paisley 3, Falkirk 3; Volvo Trucks 3, Whitburn 0. Women's first division: Whitburn 2, Waverleydale 3; Largs 3, Sports Condor 2; Auchenshoogle 0, Kyle 3; West Coast Women 0, Telford 3; Carluke 3, Telford Tigers 0. Unofficial British Club Championship (Men): Murray International Metals 3, Speedwell 1.

CROSS COUNTRY

ALDEIAS DAS ACOTEIAS, PORTUGAL: European Cup (10,000m): 1, A Cova (Port), 29 min 13 sec; 2, F Mamede (Port), 29.14; 3, C Lopes (Port), 29.20; 5, S Jones (Wales), 29.25; 7, R Hackney (Eng), 29.32. Leading team positions: 1, Lisbon Sporting (Port), 27 pts; 4, Aldershot Farnham and District (Eng), 110; 12, Swansea (Wales), 179; 16, Stretford (Eng), 203. (12,000m) 1, [illegible]. Women: [illegible].

ATHLETICS

OAKLAND, California: Marathon: Men: 1, F Clyne (Scot), 2hr 15min 21sec; 2, B Hawthorne (US), 2:16.58; 3, J-I Westlund (Swe), 2:17.36. Women: 1, L McMullin (US), 2:42.19; 2, L Kessler (US), 2:47.53; 3, J Lucas (US), 2:49.21.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Rangers 3, *Los Angeles Kings 3; New York Islanders 5,* Pittsburgh Penguins 4; Washington Capitals 8, Edmonton Oilers 2; Philadelphia Flyers 7, Toronto Maple Leafs 0; Hartford Whalers 4, Chicago Bulls 3; Detroit Red Wings 6, Boston Bruins 5; Quebec Nordiques 2, Buffalo Sabres 2; Minnesota North Stars 3, New Jersey Devils 1; Calgary Flames 4, Vancouver Canucks 2, Winnipeg Jets 2, Montreal Canadiens 2.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston Celtics 137, Detroit Pistons 134; Los Angeles Lakers 110, San Antonio Spurs 98; Seattle Supersonics 104, Dallas Mavericks 96; Portland Trail Blazers 97, Phoenix Suns 92.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Solent Stars 82 (Robinson 21, Johnson 18, Griffiths 16), Crystal Palace 71 (Kellerman 21, Bucknell 14, Spaid 12); Kingston 108 (Irwell 30, Rudd 24, Lloyd 20), Hemel Hempstead 111 (Smith 46, Knowles 24, Sewell 21); Leicester 82 (Bradbury 18, Pryor 17, O'Shea 15), Doncaster 71 (Streeter 20, Branch 16, Monroe 15); Manchester Giants 79 (Gardner 20, Brooks 17, Moorhead 14), Warrington 88 (Brown 20, Jones 15, Bone 16); Crystal Palace 85 (Lloyd 24, Kellerman 20, Anderson 17), Leicester 65 (Peyton 33); Warrington 103 (Brown 27, Bone 20, Lloyd 18), Solent 96 (Crosby 31, Mowbold 17, Broderick 15); Sunderland 93 (Wearren 41, Brandon 20, Mullins 12), Brighton Bears 84 (Cunningham 26, Kenkins 29); Manchester Giants 80 (Gardner 22, Brooks 21, Moorhead 19), Solent Stars 102 (Johnson 26, Griffiths 22, Robinson 19).

RUGBY UNION

BERKSHIRE CUP – Quarter-final: Maidenhead 9, Reme 0.

DORSET AND WILTS CUP – Semi-final: Swindon 9, Westcombe 8.

HERTS PRESIDENT'S CUP – Quarter-final: Stevenage 10, Bishop's Stortford 3.

KENT CUP – Third round: Old Shootershillians 13, Askeans 10.

SUSSEX CUP – Semi-final: Lewes 0, Crawley 19. (Crawley play Hove or Crawley Lab ...)

NAVAL PLATE – Second round: Sidmouth 11, Tavistock 6.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Scotland Colleges 11, England 3.

TENNIS

Shaw survives a crisis of confidence

By Lewine Mair

Although short on confidence, Stephen Shaw defeated Kevin Moir, of South Africa, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4 in the first round of an LTA international satellite tournament at the new Telford Centre.

Fit though he undoubtedly is, Shaw early on was too tight to get his feet working and failed to keep any kind of length with his ground shots. Moir had raced to a set and 2-0 ahead before showing signs that his confidence was not exactly a deep-seated affair. Shaw caught him at 2-2 and won the set 8-6 on a tie-break.

Moir was 1-3 down in the final set *when he received a warning*. Having hit a forehand along the ground, he banged his racket on the carpet before snapping back the handle. He won the game, but by now Shaw had come to appreciate that his opponent was much more edgy than he was himself.

The match which promises most today is that between Stuart Bale and Ollie Rahnasto, aged 18, a Finn who last year defeated both Stan Smith and Steve Denton.

FIRST ROUND: G Levenbacher (US) bt B Jones (SA), 6-4, 6-2; A Mansdorf (Isr) bt S Bird (GB), 6-4, 6-3; R Bauman (Swe) bt L Alfred (GB), 6-1, 6-3; P Lundgren (Swe) bt S Fleming (Swe), 6-3, 6-1; W Hampson (Aus) bt M Doenig (Neth), 6-7, 6-2, 7-6; S Shaw (GB) bt K Moir (SA), 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; E Parks (Swe) bt A Alwi (US), 7-5, 4-6, 7-5; R Green (US) bt R Akai (US), 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

RACING: GRAND NATIONAL WINNER MAY FIND WEIGHT CONCESSION BEYOND HIM

Bonum Omen to relish testing conditions

By Michael Seely

Corbiere, the top weight in the Grand National and already favourite to repeat his last year's Aintree triumph, is one of five entries for this year's race that have been declared for the George Coney Challenge Cup at Warwick today. At Chepstow recently Jenny Pitman's superb jumper showed that he was returning to his best when finishing second to Last Suspect. But Corbiere may still find it beyond his powers to give 15lb to Bonum Omen.

During a purple patch in the middle of last season Bonum Omen showed his relish for testing conditions and extreme distances by winning three races in succession. In the process he covered nearly twelve miles and won by a total of 35 lengths. On the strength of these performances Bonum Omen started a heavily backed second favourite for the National, but was never enjoying himself on the fast going and was out of the race when he was hampered and refused on the second circuit.

Because of the drought in the Autumn Fulke Walwyn was unable to train Bonum Omen seriously earlier in the season. However, the gelding ran well for a long way when finishing fifth to Burrough Hill Lad in the Welsh National at Chepstow at the end of December. Bonum Omen is now thought to be back to his peak.

Of the other runners Peaty Sandy, like Corbiere, has won a Welsh National and the Scottish trained ten-year-old also enjoys soft ground. However, although Corbiere should now be capable of reversing the Chepstow placings with Last Suspect it is impossible to oppose Bonum Omen.

Walwyn can complete a double by winning the second division of the Ryton Novices Hurdle with Hill's Pageant. The winner of a group three race on the flat in Frankfurt last July, Hill's Pageant cost Basil Thwaites 28,000 guineas at the Newmarket December sales and is said to have taken kindly to hurdling.

Another attraction at Warwick will be the reappearance of Spartan Missile and Venture To Cognac in the second division the Air Wedding Hunters Chase. John White takes the mount in public for the first time on the Thorne family's gallant old warrior. This is the first of several runs planned in this kind of race before it is decided whether to aim Spartan Missile at the National for a second time. However, Venture To Cognac certainly looks the one to be on in receipt of 6lb from his rival.

Another likely looking bet is Mollington in the Burton Hill Handicap Hurdle. John Webber's mudlark won a couple of novice hurdles in January last year. He also ran more than respectably behind Saxon Farm in the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham and again when sixth to Very Promising at Liverpool. It requires no great stretch of the imagination to see Mollington proving difficult to beat with only 10st 8lb to carry



Mossy Moore makes a giant leap on his way to victory at Fontwell yesterday (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Shergar reward stands

On the eve of the anniversary of the kidnapping of Shergar, Irish police have confirmed that Captain Sean Berry, secretary of the Irish Throughbred Breeders' Association, is one of a handful of people to have been in contact with the gang who stole Shergar.

The ITBA, who at one stage offered a reward for the recovery of the horse alive, said last night that cash was still available for concrete information even if, as they now believe, the horse is dead. "The amount will depend on the information and what it will lead to", Captain Berry said.

He described his efforts during last year to persuade the kidnappers to lead him to the horse in return for the reward – which was much lower than the £2m originally demanded.

"A man contacted me by phone last March 17 after the association announced a reward", Captain Berry said. "A codeword was arranged and there were several negotiations over the phone from then until the end of last May.

"I spoke to the same man most of the time. He spoke with an ordinary Irish accent – definitely not northern and definitely not deep south. he was probably from somewhere in the midlands".

Contact was ended by the gang when Captain Berry insisted on some proof that the horse was alive before handling over any cash. He and the police now believe that Shergar was killed by the gang within three days of being stolen. They also believe, despite several rumours of Middle East involvement, that the IRA kidnapped Shergar to raise cash to replace arms and explosives captured in several successful security raids

Rowe booked for Janus

Richard Rowe walked into rainsoaked Fontwell Park yesterday and was immediately booked by the trainer Dina Smith to ride Janus in the Schweppes Gold Trophy. Rowe, leading jockey at the Sussex course and still on the injured list, expects to resume at Ascot tomorrow.

Rowe, sidelined because of a broken collar-bone said: "I've not ridden the horse before, but i'll go over and have a sit on him this week. I lost a winning ride, because Dina wanted me to partner Janus in the Lanzarote Hurdle when I was injured."

Carlisle waterlogged

Today's Carlisle meeting had been cancelled because of waterlogging.

A year in which mares could make their mark

By Ian Reid

There are several new venues and one new fixture in the new point-to-point season which began last Saturday. The West Shropshire Dradhounds will hold their first point-to-point meeting at Weston Park on April 14. The Ross Harriers and the South Herefordshire move from Belmont to a new course on land owned by Sir John and Lady Cotterell at Garnons, near Hereford. The Tredegar Farmers shift to Brassaleg, near Newport; the Clifton-on-Teme to Upper Sapey, north of Bromyard; the Dulverton East to Mounsey Hill Gate, near Dulverton; and the Zetland to Witton Castle, near Bishop Auckland.

There is unlikely to be any more racing at Mollington after the current season, even though fences have been rebuilt and a lot of money has been spent on the course since last year. This would mean that the Bicester and Warden Hill, the Warwickshire and the Grafton, which moved from Newton Bromswold to Mollington last year, would have to find new venues in 1985.

An important change in the Jockey Club Regulations for 1984 lays down that mares of six years of age and upwards will receive a weight allowance of 5lb in all point-to-point races, as already applies under N.H. Rules. (Five-year-old mares, which already receive the 7lb age allowance, may not claim the extra 5lb). Connexions of top-class mares, such as Aingers Green, Highgate Lady, Housemistress and Swift Wood, are certainly sitting pretty.

Apart from the sponsorships already reported (Audi, Land Rover, Diners' Club International, the RMC Group and Buchanan Whisky). Massey-Ferguson are continuing to sponsor their maiden championship, with 34 maiden races qualifying the first three for the Massey-Ferguson Gold Cup at Worcester on May 23.

Another big point-to-point supporter, Same Tractors, are sponsoring 26 races as well as a £4,000 novice hunter chase a Stratford on May 18. The BritAg Ladies Championship, a new name for the Albright and Wilson series – Britag is the firm's fertiliser section – will have 31 qualifying races and will be run at the Melton Hunt Club meeting at Garthorpe on May 19.

We have two annuals to choose from this year. *Hunter Chasers and Point-to-Pointers* 1984 (£13, IPC Magazines Ltd.), is now edited and compiled by Michael Williams.

If you want the format you have come to expect, with sometimes caustic comments – "Finds the rider hard to catch" is one of the gems from a past year – you will need to send for *Point-to-Pointer and Hunter Chasers* 1984 (£14, Mackenzie & Selby).

This annual's review of 1983 includes a highly controversial attack on the Buchanan members' races over natural country.

For those who wish to compile their own form books as the season proceeds, Brian Beel's Point-to-Point Index (from 62 St Mary's Avenue, Alverstoke, Gosport, Hants PO12 2HX) will save hours of work.

Point-to-point fixtures for 1984

FEBRUARY

Saturday, 11: Cambridgeshire Harriers at Cottenham; Oxford University Hunt Club, at Kingston Blount.

Saturday, 18: Dunston Harriers, at Costessey; Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire, at Bogside; Mid-Devon, at Ottery St. Mary; Sinnington, at Duncombe Park; United Services, at Larkhill.

Saturday, 25: Army, at Tweseldown; Banwen Miners, at Erw Lon; Berwickshire, at Friar's Haugh; Cambridge University United Hunt Club at Cottenham; East Cornwall, at Lemalla; Mendip Farmers, at Nedge; North Herefordshire, at Newtown.

MARCH

Saturday, 3: Bicester & Warden Hill, at Mollington; Duke of Beaufort, at Didmarton; Holcombe Hunt, at Whittington; Mid-Surrey Farmers Draghounds, at Charing; North Norfolk Harriers, at Higham; Pembrokeshire, at Scoveston Fort; Percy, at Alnick; South Durham, at Wetherby; Tiverton, at Ottery St Mary.

Wednesday, 7: Ross Harriers, at Garnons.

Saturday, 10: Avon Vale, at Nedge; Bolventor Harriers, Lemalla; Brecon, at Llanfrynach; Brocklesby, at Brocklesby Park; Cheshire Forest, at Tatton Park; Cumberland Farmers, at Dalston; Derwent, at Wykeham; Essex Union, at Marks Tey; North Ledbury, at Upton on Severn; Oakley, at Newton Bromswold; Silverton, at Thoverton.

Saturday, 17: Cambridgeshire, at Horseheath; Cottesmore, at Garthorpe; Dart Vale & Haldon & S. Pool Harriers, at Totnes; Gelligaer Farmers, at Nelson; Golden Valley, at Bredwardine; Haydon, at Corbridge; Holderness, at Dalton Park; New Forest Buckhounds, at Larkhill; Quantock Staghounds, at Williton; Sir W. W. Wynn's, at Eaton Hall; Southdown & Eridge, at Parham; Warwickshire, at Mollington.

Saturday, 24: Curre, at Howick; Eglinton, at Bogside; Fitzwilliam, at Cottenham; Garth & S. Berks, at Tweseldown; Grove & Rufford, at Newark; Harkaway Club, at Chaddesley Corbett; Hurworth, at Hutton Rudby; Lamerton at Kilworthy; Meynell & S. Staffordshire, at Sandon; Pegasus Club (Bar) & King's Troop R.H.A., at Kimble; South Herefordshire, at Garnons; Tickham, at Sittingbourne; Tivyside, at Lydstep; V.W.H., at Siddington; Weston & Banwell Harriers, at Nedge; Wilton, at Badbury Rings.

Saturday, 31: Blankney, at The Carholme; Cattistock, at Beaminster; Cleveland, at Little Ayton; Crawley & Horsham, at Parham; Easton Harriers, at Higham; Tredegar Farmers, at Bassaleg; West Percy & Milvain, at Alnwick.

APRIL

Tuesday, 3: Heythrop at Chipping Norton; Dumfriesshire at Lockerbie.

Saturday, 7: Belvoir, at Garthorpe; Blackmore & Sparkford Vale, at Kingweston; Bramham Moor, at Wetherby; Cheshire, at Alpraham; Clifton-on-Teme, at Bromyard; Essex, at Marks Tey; Grafton, at Mollington; Hampshire Hunt, at Hackwood Park; Monmouthshire, at Llanvapley; Morpeth, at Tranwell; North Cornwall, at Wadebridge; Royal Artillery, at Larkhill; South Devon, at Galmpton; Vale of Clettwr, at Erw Lon.

Wednesday, 11: Axe Vale Harriers, at Stafford Cross; Duke of Buccleuch's & Jedforest, at Friar's Haugh.

Saturday, 14: Atherstone, at Clifton on Dunsmore; Glamorgan, at Cowbridge; Ludlow, at Bitterly; Portman, at Badbury Rings; Puckeridge & Thurlow, at Horseheath; Spooners & West Dartmoor, at Kilworthy; Southwold, at The Carholme; Tynedale, at Corbridge; West Kent, at Penshurst; West Shropshire Draghounds, at Weston Park; West Somerset Vale, at Nedge; Whaddon Chase, at Little Horwood; Zetland, at Witton Castle.

Wednesday, 18: East Devon, at Stafford Cross.

Saturday, 21: Ashford Valley, at Charing; Bedale & West of Yore, at Bedale; East Essex, at Marks Tey; Hursley Hambledon, at Tweseldown; Ledbury, at Maisemore Park; Linlithgow & Stirlingshire, at Oatridge; Llangibby, at Howick; North Staffordshire, at Sandon; Seavington, at Chard; South & West Wilts, at Larkhill; Vale of Aylesbury (Easter), at Kimble; Vale of Lune, at Whittington; Tetcott, at Crimp; Wheatland, at Bitterley; Woodland Pytchley, at Dingley.

Monday, 23: Braes of Derwent, at Tranwell; Chiddingford Leconfield & Cowdray, at Midhurst; East Kent, at Aldington; Eggesford, at Bishopsleigh; Essex Farmers, at Marks Tey; Four Burrow, at Tehidy; North Cotswold, at Broadway; Old Berkshire, at Lockinge; Southdown & Eridge, at Heathfield; South Notts, at Newark; South Pembrokeshire, at Lydstep; South Shropshire, at Eyton-on-Severn; Staintondale, at Wykeham; Talybont, at Talybont-on-Usk; Taunton Vale Hunts, at Jordans; Vine and Craven, at Hackwood Park.

Tuesday 24: Croome & West Warwickshire, at Upton on Severn; High Peak Harriers & N.E. Cheshire Draghounds, at Flagg Moor; Pytchley, at Guilsborough.

Saturday, 28: Dartmoor, at Flete Park; Fife, at Balcormo Mains; Flint & Denbigh, at Eaton Hall; Pentyrch, at Llantwit Major; Quorn, at Garthorpe; South Dorset, at Badbury Rings; Suffolk, at Ampton; Tiverton Staghounds, at Bishopsleigh; West Street, at Aldington; Worcestershire, at Chaddesley Corbett; York & Ainsty Hunts, at Easingwold.

MAY

Saturday, 5: Albrighton, at Weston Park; Berkeley, at Woodford; Berks & Bucks Draghounds, at Kingston Blount; Devon & Somerset Staghounds, at Holnicote; Essex & Suffolk, at Higham; Fernie, at Dingley; Lauderdale, at Mosshouses; Llangeinor, at St. Mary Hill; Old Surrey & Burstow, at Penshurst; Pendle Forest & Craven, at Gisburn.

Monday, 7: Burton (Evening), at The Carholme; Cotley, at Chard; Cotswold, at Andoversford; East Sussex & Romney Marsh, at Heathfield; Enfield Chace, at Northaw; Mr Goschen's Hounds, at Tweseldown; North Shropshire, at Eyton-on-Severn; Radnor & West Hereford, at Cursneh Hill; Stevenstone, at Crimp; West Norfolk, at Fakenham.

Thursday, 10: Point-to-Point Owners Association, at Woodford.

Saturday, 12: Albrighton Woodland, at Chaddesley Corbett; Carmarthenshire, at Lydstep; Middleton, at Whitwell on the Hill; Minehead Harriers, W. Somerset, at Holnicote; Modbury Harriers, at Flete Park; Surrey Union, at Paper Harow; Tedworth, at Larkhill; Teme Valley & United, at Brampton Bryan; Vale of Aylesbury (Evening), at Kingston Blount.

Wednesday, 16: Cotswold Vale Farmers, at Andoversford; Tweseldown Club, at Tweseldown.

Saturday, 19: Badsworth, at Wetherby; Dulverton (West), at Bratton Down; Melton Hunt Club, at Garthorpe; Ystrad, at Llantwit Major.

Thursday, 24: Llandeilo Farmers, at Erw Lon.

Saturday, 26: Dulverton (East), at Dulverton; Isle of Wight, at Tweseldown.

Monday, 28: New Forest Foxhounds, at Larkhill; North Warwickshire, at Lowsonford.

JUNE

Saturday, 2: Exmoor Foxhounds, at Bratton Down.

Saturday, 9: Torrington Farmers, at Umberleigh.

Warwick

GOING: Heavy

1.30 AIR WEDDING HUNTER CHASE (Div I: amateurs: £934:2m 4f) (12 runners)

2	2200P-1	RAMBLING BUCK (CD) (Mrs J Griffith) E H Owen 10-12-8	J Griffiths 7
4	U000/3-0	BALLYMADDER (C Spate) F Yardley 11-12-2	H Phibbs 7
5	004000/	BARLEEN (B Coles) B Coles 8-12-2	A Sharpe
7	234200-	BOBBY'S FOX (P Mann) P Mann 11-12-2	R Mann 7
10	4004PR-	GANGSTER'S CANYON (K Wynn) K Wynn 9-12-2	–
11	44020/2	HARWELL ABBEY (R Armytage) R Armytage 13-12-2	M Armytage 7
13	11F/402	KILLER SHARK (D) (Lord Cadogan) G P-Gordon 9-12-2	S Sherwood
15	00024P-	NOVUS KING (Mrs P Grainger) Mrs P Grainger 8-12-2	–
17	103F4-0	SIOBHAN'S JOY (C) (Mrs C Janaway) Mrs C Janaway 9-12-2	G Maundrell
23	03-0P00	BRIDGE ASH (D) (J Johnson) J Johnson 11-11-11	I Johnson
24	0030P4-	ROYAL CLASSIC (R Savery) R Savery 7-11-11	–
28	00P-4F	CURRENT MOMENT (Lady Susan Brooke) Lady Susan Brooke 5-11-4	N Oliver 7

15-8 Killer Shark, 11-4 Rambling Buck, 5 Harwell Abbey, 7 Siobhan's Joy, 10 Royal Classic.

2.0 RYTON HURDLE (Div I:novices: £639:2m) (9)

2	010	PARISH RIGGED (CD) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 6-11-13	H Davies
4	F0	BEN'S WAY (G Hull) J Spearing 5-11-6	A Webb
5	00	BRIAN'S BUCK (N McGrady) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-6	S Morshead
6	000	ICE LAD (T Connop) D Nicholson 5-11-6	P Scudamore
10	F0	NIKIFOROS (Miss B Hiller) R Atkins 5-11-6	R Atkins
11	0-040	PRINCE'S DRIVE (B Manning) B Palling 6-11-6	C Evans 7
12	000	SKYBOOT (Mrs B Robinson) J Townson 5-11-6	D Dutton
13		CHELSEA MAID (L Jones) D Laing 5-11-1	K Mooney
14	000	LADY LETITIA (Miss A King) Miss A King 5-11-1	P Dever 4

8-11 Parish Rigged, 3 Nikiforos, 4 Brian's Buck, 8 Prince's Drive, 10 Ice Lad, 16 others.

2.30 PRINCETHORPE CHASE (Handicap:£1,808:2m 4f) (7)

1	32-3143	GREENBANK PARK (C) (R Perkins) R Perkins 7-11-10	R Crank
3	00F31-1	COMBE HILL (D) (J Henderson) N Henderson 7-11-9 (7ex)	P Croucher 7
4	13001-3	ANITACAT (Miss L Wood) J Webber 9-11-7	G McCourt 7
6	30-021F	MIDNIGHT SONG (Mrs D Price) T Forster 9-11-4	H Davies
14	04/0PF-F	STATIST (B) (Mrs S Mutton) T Hallett 9-10-0	L Bloomfield 4
15	01P0F-F	SWIFT KING (D Greig) D Greig 9-10-0	A Webber
16	43F00-P	SIR BOUNTIFUL (Mrs G Allen) S Cole 10-10-0	M Bastard

2 Combe Hill, 3 Anitacat, 4 Greenbank Park, 9-2 Midnight Song, 10 Swift King, 16 others.

3.0 GEORGE CONEY CHASE (Handicap:£3,360:3m 4f 300yds) (7)

1	1-30F42	CORBIERE (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-7	B De Haan
2	210-030	PEATY SANDY (Miss H Hamilton) Miss H Hamilton 10-11-1	T Dun
4	233-221	LAST SUSPECT (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 10-11-1 (5ex)	H Davies
7	2111R-0	BONUM OMEN (CD) (L Thwaites) F Walwyn 10-10-6	K Mooney
9	223313	RUPERTINO (C) (Lord Kenyon) E H Owen jun 9-10-4	R Strange 4
12	21010-0	PARKLANDS (Miss J Eaton) H Wharton 8-10-0	P Barry
15	14-0212	WOODLANDS LAD (P Pritchard) P Pritchard 9-10-0	P Dever 4

9-4 Corbiere, 3 Last Suspect, 4 Bonum Omen, 13-2 Peaty Sandy, 8 Rupertino, 10 Woodlands Lad, 12 Parklands.

3.30 RYTON HURDLE (Div II: novices: £693:2m) (14)

[illegible]

4.0 AIR WEDDING HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £934:2m 4f) (12)

[illegible]

4.30 BURTON HILL HURDLE (Handicap: £1,606: 2m) (16)

[illegible]

By Michael Seely

1.30 Rambling Buck. 2.0 Brian's Buck. 2.30 Combe Hill. 3.0 Bonum Omen. 3.30 Hill's Pageant. 4.0 Venture To Cognac. 4.30 Mollington.

Wolverhampton results

Going: Chase courses – soft, hurdles – heavy

[illegible]

Fontwell results

Going: Heavy

1.30 CLIMPING CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CHASE

MOSSY MOORE br g by Master Owen – Choir Belle

[illegible]

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

A heady scent as pungent as Yugoslav slivovic

From David Miller, Sarajevo

Yesterday I scented, in the resplendent beauty of the Igman Mountain Forest here, that vein of Olympic truth which has motivated men and women to experience simply the privilege of taking part.

For a few hours I shared with Britain's biathlon and Nordic cross-country ski teams the mood of two of the least-heralded and most challenging of sports. Under the guidance of John Moore, chairman of British Nordic Skiing, I slithered round part of the biathlon course which he designed, and was hewn by the Yugoslavs through pine and boulder in what four years ago was virgin mountain terrain.

Moore, a former Olympic skier, is a respected course architect for this fierce discipline. When they became hosts, the Yugoslavs drove him by tractor up from Sarajevo into the heart of this breathtaking untouched expanse of pine and said, as he stood munching a Serb sausage in the ethereal silence: "build us a championship course".

There was not then even a road. Now, within sight of the Bjelasnica men's downhill course which towers beyound, there is one of the most fantastic complexes in Europe. When these outstandingly friendly Games are over, the Yugoslavs want to make it not merely a centre of excellence but an open house for international youth. It is a triumph of the Olympic spirit.

With subtlety, Moore has fashioned a course of technical variety whose gradients, bends and downhills reward those with rhythm as well as strength. To race 15, 30 or 50 kilometres, as the cross-country skiers do, is as demanding as Thompson's decathlon or de Castella's marathon, yet with none of the glamour which those have for world television audiences. One of the strongest men I ever knew, a fellow athlete thirty years ago who runs a Nordic training camp in Norway, used to tremble at the demands of biathlon's ski shoot.

Sitting with the British teams in the cosy competitors' lodge, the Olympic motif was as pungent as the slivovich. "Never mind about the Russians and the East Germans, we're doing it for enjoyment," said Tony McLeod, bother of Olympic runner Mike McLeod. Russia has 2.5 million cross-country skiers, and 2,000 biathlon competitors: Britain's regular biathlon competitiors number 25.

"A place in the top ten would be a gold medal", argues David Bright, the shooting coach. The Scandanavians and East Europeans have mostly been skiing since they were children, while most of the British began barely four or five years ago. McLeod was twenty-fifth in the last World Cup 20km – "I shot poorly" – and Jim Wood was fourteenth in the 10km. The best Olympic performance was by Keith Oliver, eleventh in Sapporo.

Through lack of funds, the biathlon team lose minutes in every race because they do not have the East German automatic re-loading mechanism, which enables the marksman, already close to oxygen debt from skiing, not to have to retake his aim between each shot: when prone, this is at a 4.5cm target, and at Igman probably in a crosswind. The British men's team of MacIvor, Wood and McLeod (20km) and Ferguson, King and Wood (10km) are almost as fast as all opponents at skiing.

Finance and experience are the key factors, fust as they are for cross-country. Mark Moore, son of the designer, won the recent Lowlands countries (no mountains) 15km race, and with Rawlin and Dixon took the team event. Lieutenant Colonel Johnnie Walker, team director, spent months begging and borrowing form the generals of his predominently services competitors, who themselves contributed £2,000 to be here. How about that, Carl Lewis?

"Under our Swiss coach Batesta Albin eh have improved by two minutes in recent months on endurance training." John Spotswood, a paratrooper from Carlisle who fought in the Falklands, said. One minute at cross-country is equivalent to one second in Alpine downhill. Michael Dixon is said by the doctor to be the fittest man he's ever examined. It is the first time Britain has ever been able to enter a team, as opposed to individuals, thanks to their sponsors, Modern Alarms, and equipment suppliers, Javlin International and Idlo. May they by rewarded.

Ice hockey players withdrawn

Sarajevo (Reuter) – At least three ice hockey players were withdrawn last night from the Winter olympics following a row over eligibility. The three players were Jim Corsi and Richard Bragnalo of Italy, and Gregory Holst, of Austria.

The withdrawals followed a written 'request' by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) asking national Olympic leaders to investigate whether there were any professional players among their teams in Sarajevo. Soon after the investigation call was issued, Italian team officials announced that Corsi and Bragnolo had been withdrawn from the tournament. Holst told Austrian television that he too had been excluded.

The moves followed an official protest by Finland which submitted to the IOC a list of players they claimed had played professional ice hockey. Corsi, Bragnalo and Holst were on the list, which also included four Canadians.

But Murray Costello, the president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, said all four would be included in the Canadian team roster

The IOC issued a statement confirming that all players eligible for the world championship were also eligible for the Olympics except those having a contract with a professional ice hockey organization.

● The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee yesterday fended off accusations by Greece that they were commercializing the Olympic torch relay run across America by selling sponsored kilometres for charity (David Miller writes).

Today's events

ICE HOCKEY: Group matches: Austria v Findland; United States v Canada; Italy v Sweden; Czechoslovakia v Norway; Soviet Union v Poland.

Johnson becomes somebody

From John Hennessy
Sarajevo

From "Who's Bill Johnson?" to "Who's the man to beat Bill Johnson?" represents a remarkable metamorphosis of the Californian downhill skier. The nobody of a few weeks ago has suddenly become somebody of significance.

Johnson's victory in the Lauberhorn at Wengen was greeted with first incredulity, and then scorn. It was a fluke, brought about by freak weather conditions. His fourth place in the Cortina downhill last weekend, coupled with the most impressive training time here, has caused the "Austria-Switzerland-Canada mafia", as one American commentator characterises the countries who habitually dominate the downhill, to revise their opinions.

Since arriving here, Johnson has been eighth on the first training run, first on the second and second on the third yesterday. No other racer can match that record. Even allowing for the doubt attached to training times, he is clearly a man to be feared.

Between Wengen and Cortina, there were disappointing results at Kitzbühel and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, not surprisingly because the courses there were icy. "Coming from the west", he says, "I'm not used skiing on ice". There is little ice of note on the course at Bjelasnica.

It is an Olympic-type course, moderate of length and challenge, in order to accommodate the less skilled, a "glider's course" in that it invites a prolonged crouch in the tuck position. It is a course suited to Johnson, according to one of the Canadian gladiators, Steve Podborski. Johnson is hardly the man to disagree. He is not so much brimming with confidence, as sublimely sure of his own capabilities.



Helmets off to Johnson, out on his own in training.

Was he, I asked yesterday, mindful of a lurid reputation, a free spirit? "Pretty much", he said. "Basically there's nothing I can't do". He is a modest kind of chap. But his freedom of spirit got a little out of hand two years ago, and he lost his place in the American World Cup team for disciplinary reasons.

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean allowed us another peep yesterday into their intentions for the Olympic ice dance championship, starting on Friday. During practice for the compulsories, they made two small but significant changes in their routines.

An unusual and attractive hold in the Paso Doble, the prescribed dance rather than the original set pattern, has been abandoned. It caused some observers to consult the rule book during the British and European championships, to ensure that they were not in breach.

Spectrum, page 12

HOCKEY

Bombers profit by inexperience of a netminder

By Robert Pryce

Cleveland Bombers' transformation is complete. They beat the premier divisions' first-placed club, the Dundee Rockets 11-10 on Saturday. After starting their league programme with 13 successive defeats, they have now won four of their last seven games.

Taking some advantage of the inexperience of Dundee's netminder, Kenny Ward, Cleveland held the lead for all but a few minutes of the game. It was their first win over the British champions.

The Cinderellas beat the Rockafellers with the considerable help of British ice hockey's Prince Charming, Jim Earle. He has scored 40 out of Cleveland's current total of 106.

But now the young player-coach can share the goalscoring burden. Cleveland have moved one their Canadian defencemen, Steve Cook, to centre and on Saturday they welcomed back their England international right wing, Tony McPartland, who has missed 25 games with a suspension incurred for pushing a referee. McFarland scored three goals, Cook adding three and Earle, two.

Nottingham Panthers supplied the weekend's other surprise by winning 9-4 at Murrayfield.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cleveland 11 (McPartland 3, Cook 3), Dundee 10 (Halpin 4, R Wood 3); Fyfe 13 (MacDougall 5, G Latto 3), Nottingham 6 (Mcay 4); Streatham 5, Murrayfield 4; Durham 9 (Bennett 3), Ayr 4; Murrayfield 4, Nottingham 9 (McDonald 3; Streatham 9 (C Leggatt 3, Markosky 3), Whitley Bay 6 (Butler 3). First division: Blackpool 12, Grimsby 2; Deeside 8, Crowtree 23; Glasgow 5, Altrincham 2; Bournemouth 3, Southampton 11; Peterborough 24, Deeside 0; Richmond 4, Solihull 13.
ENGLISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Solihull Vixens 9, Cambridge University 0.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to Resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Davos	100	190	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-3
Some high off-piste, but windblown							
Flaine	150	270	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-4
Wonderful skiing							
Gstaad	75	135	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	4
Snow on varied base							
Grindelwald	40	120	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	
High winds close lifts							
Kitzbühel	20	125	Good	Varied	Poor	Snow	1
Drop in temperature needed							
Klosters	80	160	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
Good skiing below tree line							
St Moritz	45	60	Good	Varied	Fair	Snow	-2
Skiing good above 2200m							
Sauze d'Oulx	30	60	Fair	Powder	Fair	Snow	-1
New powder on hard base							
Val d'isère	105	175	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-3
New snow on good base							
Verbier	60	200	Good	Heavy	Good	Snow	-1
New snow on good base							
Villars	80	150	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	0
Good skiing between trees							
Wengen	40	130	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	0
New snow on hard base							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports has been received from a tourist boards:

SWITZERLAND

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Adelboden	30	100	Powdr	–	-3
Braunwald	40	80	Powdr	–	–2
Champery	10	100	Powdr	–	+1
Chateau d'Oex	70	140	Powdr	–	0
Disentis	60	150	Powdr	–	–1
Engelberg	30	130	Powdr	–	–1
Kandersteg	30	100	Powdr	–	0
Laax-Flims	60	150	Powdr	–	0
Lenk	40	120	Powdr	–	0
Lenzerheide	60	100	Powdr	–	–5
Les Diablerets	90	120	Powdr	–	0
Leysin	60	120	Hard	–	–3
Pontresina	33	80	Powdr	–	–8
St Cergue	80	120	Hard	–	0
Savognin	40	70	Powdr	–	0
Unterwasser	60	110	Powdr	–	–2

NORWAY

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Finse	–	230	Good	–	–7
Geilo	–	100	Good	–	–4
Gol	–	60	Good	–	–10
Lillehammer	–	60	Good	–	–2
Norefjell	–	70	Good	–	–5
Oslo	–	60	Good	–	–0
Rjukan	–	80	Good	–	–3

FRANCE

	Depth (cm) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Chamonix	85	270	–	–	–
La Clusaz	110	–	–	–	–
Les Contamines	115	280	–	–	–
Les Dx Alpes	120	300	–	–	–
Les Menuires	113	150	–	–	–
Megeve	120	200	–	–	–
St Gervais	50	200	–	–	–
Superdevoluy	110	220	–	–	–
Val d'Iere	105	170	–	–	–

CRESTA RUN

MORGAN CUP: 1, C Tesdorpf (WG), 152.38pts; 2, U Mueller (Switz), 166.55; 3, F Ganser (Switz), 162.6; 8, W Shipton (GB), 168.97.
BOOT CUP: 1, C Memmenthaler (Switz), H'cap 7.40 net 157.91pts; 2, F Badrutt (Switz), 3.50; 159.57; 3, M Stapelton (GB), 4.10; 159.62; 5, A Freeland (GB), 2.30; 160.59.

CRICKET: Derbyshire yesterday revealed a loss of more than £3,000 on their lotteries operation, which ceased last autumn. The total loss to the county could eventually reach about £10,000.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Milk Cup
Semi-final, fist leg
Liverpool v Walsall
First Division
Birmingham v Manchester United
Third Division
Sheffield United v Lincoln
Fourth Division
Bury v Tranmere
Scottish Cup
Second round
Stenhousemuir v Albion Rovers
Third round
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock

[illegible]

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Second round: Hayes v Southall.
MIDWEEK LEAGUE CUP: Southend v Northampton.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: AP Leamington v Sutton Coldfield. Postponed: Hastings v Fisher Athletic. Midlands division: Tamworth v VS Rugby.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Banstead v Chertsey; Harefield v Berkhamsted; Haringay Borough v Hoddesdon; Horley v Camberley; Kingsbury v Edgware; Marlow v Chalfont St Peter; Redhill v Fleet; Thatcham v Whyteleafe.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barking v Billericay; Harrow v Bromley. First division: Hampton v Epsom and Ewell; Walton and Hersham v Kingstonian. Second division: Corinthian-Casuals v Finchley; Newbury v Uxbridge; St Albans v Ware. Cup, fourth round: Basildon v Sutton United; Oxford City v Tooting and Mitcham; Wembley v Bishop's Stortford; Wycombe Wanderers v Wokingham.

OTHER MATCH: Hitchin v Cambridge University.
BEDFORDSHIRE PREMIER CUP: Semi-final: Sandon Rovers v Stotfold.

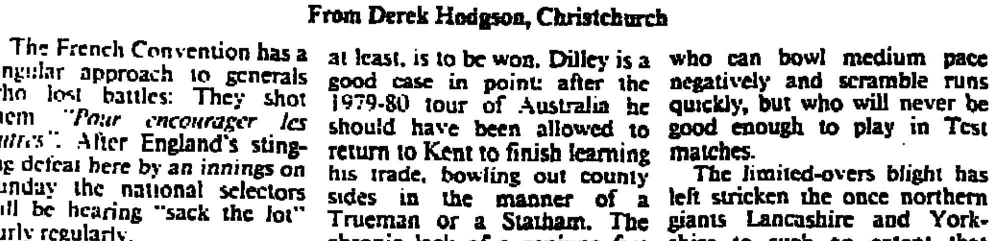
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: First round – Second leg (First leg score in brackets). South Liverpool (1) v Oswestry (0). Postponed: Gainsborough v Grantham.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Presidents Cup: First round, second leg: (First leg score in brackets): Macclesfield (1) v Hyde United (1).
CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Burnley v West Bromwich Albion; Derby County v Sheffield Wed (7.0); Leeds v Sunderland. Second division: Chesterfield v Blackpool; Manchester City v Middlesbrough (6.45); Notts Co v Wigan Athletic; Oldham v Bradford City (7.0); Preston V Grimsby (7.0); Rotherham v Huddersfield (7.0).
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Brighton v Charlton (7.15); Fulham Res v Reading (2.0); Swindon Res v Watford (7.0).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend v Newport (7.15); Exeter v Plymouth Albion; Glamorgan Wnderers v Aberavon (7.15).

SNOOKER

Welsh championships (Ebbw Vale, 2.0 and 7.30).



CRICKET

A case for hard labour as England return to the scene of the crime

From Derek Hodgson, Christchurch

The French Convention has a singular approach to generals who lost battles: They shot them *"Pour encourager les autres"*. After England's stinging defeat here by *an innings* on Sunday the national selectors will be hearing "sack the lot" fairly regularly.

A series has not been won abroad since Brearley's Australian triumph of 1978-9, and New Zealand, it seems, is about to follow Australia (twice), West Indies and India into the debit book.

The last two visits to Pakistan and New Zealand resulted in drawn series. There are obvious reasons, which can be explored later, for the lack of success but any immediate upheaval in the England team's ranks can be ruled out for lack of replacements.

Twenty years ago, perhaps, certainly 30 years ago, it would have been possible to choose up to three England elevens off varying quality yet composed of players of authentic Test match technique and experience. As the following exercise will show it is now impossible to field even a second eleven.

If the 15 players at present in New Zealand *were to decamp* en bloc to Durban or East Berlin the New England XI, chosen strictly from placings in the first-class averages of 1983 in order to avoid and charges of prejuidice, would read: Barlow (Middlesex), Lloyd (Warwickshire), *Benson (Kent)*, Cowdrey (Kent Captain), Lynch (Surrey), Williams (Northants), Pringle (Essex), Edmonds (Middlesex), David East (Essex), Tremlett (Hampshire), Stevenson (Yorkshire).

Worthy gentleman and players, you would agree, but not an array to frighten C H Lloyd, of K J Hughes. The situation will be eased a little a year from now when Gooch, Emburey, Taylor and Sidebottom, among others, have served the suspension *imposed for their South African* adventure. For the moment there is hardly a player in England who can offer a serious and sustained challenge for a place in the current party, with the one exception of Edmonds who, of course, should have been on this tour from the start.

It is a very unhealthy situation not least because the current England players know they connot be dropped for any length of time if a home series, at least, is to be won. Dilley is a good case in point: after the 1979-80 tour of Australia he should have been allowed to return to Kent to finish learning his trade, bowling out county sides in the manner of a Trueman or a Statham. The chronic lack of a geniune fast bowler to partner Willis meant his return to the colours almost within weeks.

Cowans, too, is being forced, has a better grasp of the essentials and he is one seam bowler who may have come to stay. The gap between county and Test cricket has been illustrated, in this last Test match, by the unfortunate Pigott's experiences.

While the ball was new and hard and New Zealand were on the defensive Pigott looked a worthwhile recruit. Once the New Zealand innings had been established and Hadlee, in particular, went on the attack, Pigott looked sadly out of his class.

The reasons for the lack of Test-match players qualified for England can be summarised very briefly:

There are too many overseas players occupying key positions in the county teams; too much one-day cricket is played, delaying the development of first-class players and encouraging the regiment of young men who can bowl medium pace negatively and scramble runs quickly, but who will never be good enough to play in Test matches.

The limited-overs blight has left stricken the once northern giants Lancashire and Yorkshire to such an extent that neither county has been unable to present England with an established regular bowler since Old's appearance in the late 1960s.

The respective team managers, Bond and Illingworth, have both pleaded with their local leagues, once great nurseries, to revert to proper one-innings matches, to little avail. The clubs, like the counties, prefer the facile entertainment of fixed overs, of containing the batsman rather than trying to bowl him out.

Meanwhile England picked up the pieces today by returning to the scene of the crime, Lancaster Park, and in a cool wind worked hard all afternoon at the nets.

The two injured fast bowlers, Dilley and Foster, completed several laps around the playing area but will not be turning an arm over until the first practice *in Auckland on Wednesday*. Bernard Thomas thinks both could be fit for contention for a place in the third Test team by Thursday.

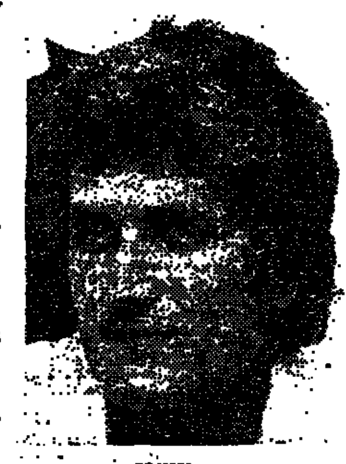
Pigott is returning to his club, Wellington, but will be, the manager, Alan Smith, said, "available for recall if we need him". New Zealand, celebrating Waitangi Day, heard that their team for the Auckland Test, starting on Friday, will, naturally, be unchanged.

Pitch report 'confidential'

Christchurch (Reuter) – The New Zealand Cricket Council secretary, Graham Dowling, said yesterday he would not disclose the contents of a report from the England team on the Lancaster Park pitch.

Dowling said he had received the standard report a touring manager was required to submit after a Test match but it would remain confidential between the England manager, Alan Smith, and the council.

He said reports that Smith *would submit a letter of* complaint over the quality of the pitch were untrue. "I've heard that rumour," he said, "but the only communication we have received from the England team is the manager's report which is between them and us."



Willis



Marsh: always in the thick of things

Clamorous plaintiff in court of appeal

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Rodney Marsh's decision, at the age of 36, to follow Dennis Lillee and Greg Chappell into retirement from first-class cricket later this month brings an era to an end. It means that Australia's future lies exclusively in the hands of players too young to have served in Mr. Packer's revolutionary army.

Lillee, Chappell and Marsh came into the Australian team within a couple of months of each other – against England in Australia in 1970-71. In their different ways and at different times they have been the terror of their opponents, the combination of Lillee, the bowler, and Marsh, the wicket keeper, having accounted in Test cricket for an astonishing 96 victims.

To start with, Marsh was known as "the man with the iron gloves". He was not, in the way that Bertie Oldfield or Don Tallon were, a born wicketkeeper. But as his record shows he became a mightily effective one. *In 96 Test matches he had 355* successes, *86* more than Alan Knott, who comes second and played in only one Test fewer. In recent years Marsh's batting has rather fallen away. At his best, though, he hit the hall with awesome power.

In the middle seventies it was a chilling sight to see Thomson or Lillee charging in to bowl. Marsh standing perhaps 20 yards back with an arc of rapacious, pugnacious, green-capped slips and gullys crouching alongside him. Formidably confident and unashamedly aggressive they held some breathtaking catches, none of them more so than those by the diving, somersaulting, moustachioed Marsh.

He was built like a tree trunk, which made his agility all the more remarkable. Once he had realized the need to do so, he kept himself exceptionally fit. The fact that of his 355 victims only 12 were stumped is an indictment of today's game.

Although Marsh's form when standing up was quick and eventually dextrous, he was essentially a modern wicketkeeper – an acrobat with gloves on. He was *always in the thick of things* – whether the ball was being changed or an argument brewing or the slips were in animated conversation. We shall miss Rod Marsh a lot, and it may be a very long time before his like appears again.

GOLF

Faldo ready to step over the threshold

By Mitchell Platts

Nick Faldo moves into the Hawaiian open tournament on Thursday, confident that he is following in the footsteps of Tony Jacklin and Peter Oosterhuis, and on his way to winning a tournament on the United States circuit. Faldo's confidence stems from a superb final round of 68 in the Bing Crosby national Pro-am at Pebble Beach, California, on Sunday, which lifted the Hertfordshire-based golfer into fifth place behind the winner, Hale Irwin.

Since he finished runner-up in the Walt Disney World classic last October, Faldo has *felt* that it will not be long before he gains a victory in the United States, and this latest effort provided further evidence of his ability to take on the world's finest players.

Although Irwin, winning for the sixteenth time in his career, diverted the attention away from Faldo by overcoming Jim Nelford, of Canada, at the second extra hole, there can be little doubt that there is a growing admiration in the United States for the Englishman's capabilities. Faldo put together an excellent closing score, to move past the likes of Hal Sutton.

Faldo, who earned 16,000 dollars, has moved into thirty-first position in the overall money list, with 22,938 dollars. He is ahead of Peter Oosterhuis (Forty-fourth; 17,114 dollars), who finished seventh behind Gary Koch in the San Diego Open, the previous weekend. Sam Torrance, who is 144th, with 919 dollars, has returned home, but plans to compete in next week's Los Angeles Open, when Faldo will be playing in the Australian Masters.

Irwin has moved into fourth position in the United States official money list, with 82,000 dollars, behind Tom Watson (100,000 dollars), Koch (88,180 dollars) and Tom Purtzer (88,096 dollars).

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated). 278: H Irwin, 69, 69, 68, 72; J Nelford (Can), 67, 73, 70, 68. 280: M O'Meara, 68, 74, 68, 70; F Couples, 74, 67, 69, 70. 281: N Faldo (GB), 70, 72, 71, 68. 282: H Sutton, 69, 70, 71, 72; C Stadler, 72, 66, 74, 70. 283: L Hinkle, 72, 71, 72, 68; D Edwards, 69, 70, 69, 75; J Fought, 72, 72, 70, 69. 284: G Morgan, 73, 70, 72, 69; P McGowan, 73, 69, 71, 71; C Pavin, 68, 75, 71, 70.

Michael McLean, who won the Cacharel world under-25 championship last year, had a closing round of 68, to finish joint eighth behind Gavin Levenson in the South African PGA championship.

JOHANNESBURG: PGA Championship: (SA unless stated): 271: G Levenson, 70, 66, 68, 67. 274: N Price, 67, 69, 72, 66. 277: F Allem, 66, 68, 72, 71. 279: H Baiocchi, 70, 74, 71, 64. 280: D Games (US), 70, 73, 71, 66; D Frost, 72, 71, 69, 68. 281: A Hennings, 76, 66, 72, 67. 282: B Buttner (US), 71, 70, 73, 68. 283: M McLean (GB), 74, 71, 70, 68; A Oosthuizen, 75, 69, 69, 70. 284: I Mosey (GB), 74, 69, 71, 70; C Moody (GB), 71, 69, 73, 71; F Beaver, 71, 73, 68, 72. Other British scores: 285: P Way, 79, 69, 68, 69; N Burch, 70, 73, 68, 74. 286: D Feherty, 73, 72, 70, 71.

MIAMI: Women's tournament: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 280: P Sheehan, 71, 68, 69, 72. 282: S Turner, 74, 70, 67, 71. 283: M Figueras-Dotti (Sp), 73, 75, 68, 67; A Okamoto (Japan), 70, 72, 72, 69. 284: V Alvarez, 71, 73, 74, 66; P Meyers, 76, 69, 72, 67; J Clark, 72, 69, 72, 71; A-M Palli (Fr), 73, 69, 68, 74. 285: P Bradley, 67, 70, 75, 73; B King, 73, 69, 75, 68; M Spencer Devlin, 73, 73, 70, 69; C Walker, 68, 73, 72, 72.

RUGBY UNION

England and Ireland ponder changes

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

England and Ireland crouch at the foot of the international championship table today, licking their wounds and pondering the same question? whether to make changes for their meeting at Twickenham on February 18 and whether to change their playing style if they do introduce new blood.

Ireland's answer will come first. Their selectors meet tonight; England's gather at the weekend and will announce their team next Monday, on which day they are also due for squad training at Stourbridge. The Irish face the possibility of being without Fitzgerald, their hooker and captain, who had eight stitches in a deep wound in his forehead sustained against Wales last Saturday and may not have *recovered in time*.

Duggan, the No 8, took over on the field against the Welsh and would probably retain the captaincy in a pack which won a reasonable amount of possession. Behind the scrum however Ireland, like England, look short on positive thinking and if there is change, it seems likely to be in the *midfield* where Irwin is out of touch and Campbell not his old self.

Several possibilities occur here: Campbell could move to centre, with Ward playing at stand-off half, but that arrangement has not proved successful in the past. Kieran, the British Lion could be *restored to centre or Murphy, the* Greystone full back could play there as he did successfully as a replacement against Wales two years ago. England have more pressing problems which could be answered in part simply by their players playing more rugby. Some seemed to lack match fitness against *Scotland and Wheeler, the captain*, for one will want some heavy scrummaging in training. If England continue to play an entirely forward-based game there is a case for Blakeway, the Gloucester tighthead, returning.

Otherwise though Syddall may have his champions as a replacement for Colclough England may leave the pack alone, though it is to be hoped the English forwards have impressed upon them the vitures of quick possession which gives the half backs so many more options. *Winterbottom, who exacerbated* an injury, should be fit if the heavy bruising of his hip comes out by this weekend.

Under the present playing policy, any change behind the scrum would be purely cosmetic. Slemen and Hare were unhappy in defence against the Scots but Hare is a proven *match-winner and if* Bailey, the Cambridge University captain, were considered on the left wing, it would be as an attacking player because his defensive skills are not yet sufficiently well-tuned to international rugby.

France, who [illegible] Wales in Cardiff on February 18, are due to select *their team tomorrow*, while the Welsh seem unlikely to alter a winning side when they announce their squad on Thursday. The game at Cardiff will be referreed by Dick Byers, the Australian, who took charge of the game in Dublin on Saturday.

Durham's date

Durham, the holders of the Universities' Athletic Union championship, play thieir postponed quarter-final with Loughborough tomorrow. The winners of the game at Loughborough will play Cardiff at a neutral venue on February 15. The *first of the semi-finals will also* be played tomorrow, between Nottingham and Swansea, at Stroud RFC.

HOCKEY

Artificial burns leave divisions going to grass

By Sydney Friskin

Plans to play the divisional tournament on artificial turf have fallen through and the event on April 7 and 8 will revert to natural grass at Seaford College, near Petworth, in Sussex.

Bisham Abbey was thought of as the original venue but the Southern Counties Hockey Association, the hosts for the event, abandoned the idea because the sum of £1,500 offered by the Hockey Association would not have met the running costs.

The next plan, drawn up in consultation with the Hockey Association, was to stage the tournament at the Willesden Sports Centre, again on artificial turf, but even this scheme could not be *pursued* because of a football programme already arranged

The South then booked the Leisure centre at Crawley but the artificial turf there was seriously damaged in the recent spell of cold weather.

VOLLEYBALL

Only memories left to comfort fallen giants

By Paul Harrison

Murray International Metals, from Edinburgh, completed their demolition of Speedwell Runcanor, the Bristol side, in the return leg of their unofficial British championship match, in Grangemouth at the weekend.

The Scots, who had won the first leg 3-1 in October, repeated the dose, 5-5, 15-8, 11-15, 15-10, to gain revenge for defeat in both matches last season. Speedwell's weakened side had no answer to MIM's power at the net. They are worried about Pincott's ankle,

MIM, unlike Speedwell, have a good chance of retaining their league title. Although Volvo Trucks (formerly West Coast) are top, the Edinburgh team have games in *hand, the Royal Bank league's most* exciting encounter at the weekend must have been in Paisley, where the home side lost 3-2 to Falkirk only after a 22-20 final set. Paisley and Whitburn, who lost 3-0 to Volvo, are likely to be relegated.

House of Lords — Law Report February 7 1984 — House of Lords

Non-resident wife living with husband

Gubay v Kington (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman

[Speeches delivered January 26]

Where during the year of assessment 1972-73 the taxpayer was, and his wife was not, resident in the United Kingdom, although they were living together in the ordinary sense of that expression, the taxpayer's wife was "a married woman living with her husband" within the meaning of paragraph 20 *(1)* of Schedule 7 to the Finance Act 1965, and the taxpayer was not liable to capital gains tax on chargeable gains in respect of a gift to her by him of shares worth about £1.4m. That result was achieved by the proviso to section 361 (2) of the Income Tax Act 1952, and its successor, section 42 (2) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

The House of Lords (Lord Scarman dissenting) allowed an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr Albert Gubay, by leave of the House of Lords from the majority decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Dillon, Sir Denys Buckley dissenting) (*The Times*, April 18, 1983 : [1983] 1 WLR 709) affirming Mr Justice Vinelott ([1981] STC 721).

The taxpayer's successful argument based on the proviso to section 361 (2) was advanced for the first time in the House of Lords.

The Finance Act 1965, provides by Schedule 7: "20 (1) If, in any year of assessment, and in the case of a woman who in that year of assessment is a married woman living with her husband, the man disposes of an asset to the wife ... both shall be treated as if the asset was acquired from the one making the disposal for a consideration of such amount as would secure that on the disposal neither a gain nor a loss would accrue to the one making the disposal."

By section 45: "(3) References in this Part of this Act to a married woman living with her husband should be construed in accordance with section 361(1)(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1952."

Section 361 of the 1952 Act (now repealed and replaced by section 42 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970) provides: "(1) A married woman shall be treated for income tax purposes *as living* with her husband unless either – (a) they are separated under an order of a court of competent jurisdiction or by deed of separation; or (b) they are in fact separated in such circumstances that the separation is likely to be permanent.

"(2) *Where a married woman is* living with her husband and either – (a) one of them is, and one of them is not, resident in the United Kingdom for a year of assessment; or (b) both of them are resident in the United Kingdom for a year of assessment but one of them is, and one of them is not, absent from the United Kingdom throughout *that* year, the same consequences shall follow for income tax purposes as would have followed if, throughout that year of assessment, they had been in fact separated in such circumstances that the separation was likely to be permanent: Provided that where this subsection applies and the net aggregate amount of income tax (including surtax) falling to be borne by the husband and the wife for the year is greater than it would have been but for the provisions of this subsection, *the [Board] shall cause such relief to* be given (by the reduction of such assessments on the husband or the wife or the repayment of such tax paid (by deduction or otherwise) by the husband or the wife as [the Board] may direct) as will reduce the said net aggregate amount by the amount of the excess."

Mr Stewart Bates, QC and Mr Robert Venables for Mr Gubay; Mr Andrew Morritt, QC and Mr Robert Carnwath for the Revenue.

LORD FRASER said that both Mr Gubay and his wife had been resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom up to April 4, 1982.

On that date, Mrs Gubay had ceased to be so resident, and she had not been so resident at any time during the year of assessment 1972-73. She had been absent from the United Kingdom throughout that year.

Mr Gubay had continued to be resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom until October 28, 1972.

Between April 4 and October 28, 1972, Mrs Gubay had lived mainly in the Isle of Man, where Mr Gubay had visited her frequently. At all relevant times they had been living together in the ordinary sense of *that word. The gift* of shares had been made on July 7, 1972.

The only question was whether on July 7, 1972, Mrs Gubay had fallen under the description of "a married woman living with her husband" if that expression was construed in accordance with section 361 (1) (2) of the 1952 Act.

The live issue was whether paragraph (a) of section 361 (2) applied, on the basis that Mr Gubay had, and Mrs Gubay had not, been resident in the United Kingdom for 1972-73, and, if it did apply, what consequences followed for the purposes of capital gains tax, having regard *to the later* provisions of subsection (2).

Sir Denys Buckley had held that no part of subsection (2) gave any guidance as to the proper construction of "a married woman living with her husband" and had treated the reference to it in section 45 (3) of the 1965 Act as mere surplusage.

His Lordship could not agree with that course. First, Parliament had referred not merely to section 361 but expressly to "section 361 (1) (2)." It must, therefore, have considered that it was possible to obtain guidance as to the construction of the expression from both subsections.

Second, if the House were to treat subsection (2) as having no bearing on its construction, it would be giving an unduly limited meaning to "construed" in section 45 (3). It was evidently not used there in a very strict sense; even section 361 (1) did not, *strictly speaking*, deal with construction; it did not provide that "married woman living with her husband" "means" so and so but only that a married woman should be "treated for income tax purposes as" *living with her husband* unless she was separated from him in one of the specified ways. "Construed" should be read in relation to section 361 (2) in the same rather broad sense as it was in relation to subsection (1).

The practical effect of the provision of subsection (2) that "the same consequences shall follow for income tax purposes" seemed to his Lordship to be not very different from that of a provision that, in the circumstances mentioned, the woman was to be "treated for income tax purposes as" separated from her husband. Regarded in that way, subsection (2) gave just as much guidance on construction as subsection (1).

Subject, therefore, to any effect that the proviso might have, the effect of the main part of subsection (2) was that Mrs Gubay was to be treated for income tax purposes, and therefore also for capital gains tax purposes, as not living with her husband for 1972-73 because they fell within section 361 (2) (a).

It had been suggested that the proviso should be disregarded, for one of two reasons. First, it was said to be excluded by the terms of section 45 (3). That argument was based on the unusual style in which section 45 (3) was drafted in referring to "section 361 *(1) (2)*". The omission of "and" between "(1)" and "(2)" was unusual, though not unique, but it was irrelevant for present purposes.

More substantially, section 361 had only two subsections, and it was difficult to see why the draftsman had not simply referred to "section 361". Section 45 (3) was printed exactly as enacted; there was no misprint. But it did seem possible that "section 361 (1) (2)" was intended to mean something different from simply "section 361", and the suggestion was that it was intended to cut out the proviso to subsection (2).

His Lordship did not think that that could be right. The proviso was clearly part of subsection (2), and disregard of it involved two highly speculative suppositions: first, that Parliament had intended to exclude some part of section 361, and, second that that part was the proviso. His Lordship was not aware of any convention of statutory draftsmanship that would support those speculations.

The second reason why it was said that the proviso should be excluded was that it did not give guidance on construing *the* expression in question.

That was literally correct, but, taking the direction to construe the expression in accordance with section 361 (1) (2) in a broad sense, its effect was that section 361 was to apply to capital gains tax in the same way as it applied to income tax. *That* was the same as saying that wherever the section referred to income tax it was to be read as referring also to capital gains tax.

If that was correct then the whole of the section must apply including the proviso so far as it could be applied, and any benefit that would be conferred by the proviso for income tax purposes must also be conferred for capital gains tax purposes. The effect of the proviso as originally drafted was that where the subsection would operate to the disadvantage of the spouses by increasing the amount of income tax payable by them relief was to be given so as to cancel out the excess. The same relief must be given in respect of capital gains tax.

Having regard to the views that he had expressed, it was unnecessary for his Lordship to consider the argument for Mr Gubay that had apparently occupied a large part of the time in the Court of Appeal on the meaning of "for a year of assessment" in section 361 (2) (a). He would allow the appeal.

LORD SCARMAN, dissenting as to the proviso, said that, like the Master of the Rolls, he did not find it any help in construing the capital gains tax legislation. It merely imposed a specific duty on the Revenue to give relief for income tax purposes against a consequence of treating a woman as separated from her husband under (a) or (b) of section 361 (2).

It offered no guidance as to the meaning of "a married woman living with her husband"; on the *contrary, it assumed that "[the]* subsection applies". It accepted without contradiction what the subsection said: that a woman falling within (a) or (b) was to be treated as if she was separated from her husband save in one respect only. He would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Bridge, Lord Brandon and Lord Brightman delivered speeches concurring with Lord Fraser in allowing the appeal.

Solicitors: Rooks Rider & Co for Scowcroft & Co, Douglas, Isle of Man; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

No duty of care by bank to stranger guarantor

O'Hara v Allied Irish Banks and Another

A bank seeking a guarantee from a stranger, that is, a person not its own customer, owed no duty of care to explain the terms and legal effects of the guarantee to the prospective guarantor, Mr Justice Harman held in the *Chancery Division* on January 25, in refusing leave to amend the defence to a counterclaim on an Order 14 summons for summary judgment.

HIS LORDSHIP said that a pleading alleging that the bank had acted in breach of a duty of care in not giving any advice whatever on, *inter alia*, the maximum liability under the guarantee to the guarantor, would be liable to be struck out as disclosing no cause of action. He held that the words of Sir Eric Sachs in *Lloyds Bank v Bundy* ([1975] 1 QB 326, 347) were not intended to create a common law duty of care between a bank and a stranger guarantor who was merely a prospective contracting party.

Staying action with foreign proceedings

Las Mercedes (Owners) v Abidin Daver (Owners)

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman.

[Speeches delivered January 26]

Turkish shipowners were entitled to a stay of an action brought against them by Cuban shipowners in the English Admiralty Court in respect of a collision between their respective ships in Turkish territorial waters where, among other factors to be taken into consideration, the Turkish shipowners had already commenced an action in the same dispute in the Turkish courts.

The House of Lords so held, allowing an appeal by the Turkish owners of the Abidin Daver from the Court of Appeal who, on May 17, 1983, (*The Times*, May 23, 1983) had allowed an appeal by the Cuban owners of the ship Las Mercedes from an order by Mr Justice Sheen on May 4, 1983, staying the action *in rem* against the Turkish shipowners.

Mr Bernard Rix, QC and Mrs Elizabeth Blackburn for the respondents; Mr David Steel, QC and Mr Nigel Teare for the appellants.

LORD DIPLOCK said that on March 23, 1982, there had been a collision between a Turkish ship the Abidin Daver and a Cuban ship the Las Mercedes. The collision had occurred in Turkish territorial waters.

The Turkish shipowners had accordingly taken prompt steps in the District Court of Sariyer, the Turkish court which exercised admiralty jurisdiction in the area, to have the Cuban ship arrested and to start an action in that court (the Turkish action) against the Cuban shipowners as defendents.

On July 2, 1982, the Cuban shipowners arrested another of the *Turkish shipowners'* ships which was in English waters, and began an action *in rem* against the Turkish shipowners (the English action).

The Turkish shipowners then applied by motion for a stay of the English action, which was granted by Mr Justice Sheen but which, on appeal to the Court of Appeal was removed again.

His Lordship referred to the *Atlantic Star* ([1974] A C 436) which he said had become a landmark case.

Until that decision, the rule usually applicable in cases such as the present one had been that formulated by Lord Justice Scott in *St Pierre v South American Stores (Gath & Chaves) Ltd.* ([1936] 1 KB 382). That "1936 rule" stated, essentially, that a foreign plaintiff had a right to obtain the decision of an English court on the condition that "He must not act vexatiously or oppressively or in abuse of the process of the English court".

In the *Atlantic Star*, Lord Reid, having referred to the 1936 rule, observed that "with all respect, that seems to me to recall the good old days. . .when inhabitants of this island felt an innate superiority over those unfortunate enough to belong to other races." As Kipling had more forthrightly phrased it : "lesser breeds without the law".

In the *Atlantic Star* the House had given the words "vexatious" and "oppressive" *in the 1936 rule* a more flexible or liberal application.

The next significant pace forward had been *MacShannon v Rockware Glass Ltd* ([1978] AC 795), in which three of the four speeches specifically deprecated the continued use of the words "vexatious" or "oppressive". In that case there had *been no simultaneous litigation* in another jurisdiction and the *Atlantic Star* had also, for all practical purposes, been treated as one where there was no *lis alibi pendens* between the same parties.

That situation had, however been considered in the *Tillie Lykes* ([1977] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 124), where Mr Justice Brandon (as he then was) had said: "The mere existence of a multiplicity of proceedings is not to be taken into account at all as a disadvantage to the [party seeking the stay]."

In the instant case, Mr Justice Sheen had been of the opinion that that view was no longer consonant with the general approach to the question of staying proceedings which the House of Lords had adopted in *MacShannon*.

The justification for exercising their own discretion in substitution for that of Mr Justice Sheen which all three members of the Court of Appeal had given was that the judge below had erred in law in thinking that the effect of the speeches in *MacShannon* was that the fact that the Turkish action had been in existence and was being actively pursued should be given more than minimal weight. In fact, the judge had rightly identified the step *forward from the Atlantic Star* that had been taken in *MacShannon*.

The essential change in the attitude of the English courts to pending or prospective litigation in foreign jurisdictions was that judicial chauvinism had been replaced by judicial comity to an extent which was, in the field of law with which their Lordships were concerned, indistinguishable from the Scottish legal doctrine of *forum non conveniens*.

Where a *suit about a particular* subject matter between a plaintiff and a defendant was already pending in a foreign court which was a natural and appropriate forum for the resolution of their dispute, and the defendant in the foreign suit sought to bring an action in England about the same *matter, then the additional inconvenience* and expense which had to result from allowing two sets of legal proceedings to be pursued concurrently in two different countries, where the same facts would be in issue and the testimony of the same witnesses required, could only be justified if the English plaintiff *could establish objectively by cogent* evidence that there was some personal or judicial advantage that would be available to him only in the English action which was of such importance that it would be unjust to deprive him of it.

Apart from the *lis alibi pendens*, there were the following other factors pointing to Turkey as the forum in which justice could be done between the parties at less inconvenience and expense than in England.

Neither of the parties had any connexion with England, nor had the subject matter of the action. The *collision had occurred in Turkish* territorial waters, between a Turkish ship manned by a Turkish crew, who resided in the vicinity, and a Cuban ship manned by a Cuban crew that had been piloted by a local Turkish pilot.

Surveyors appointed by a Turkish court had made a report on the collision within a few days of its occurrence. It would be far more convenient for the Turkish witnesses to attend a hearing in Turkey, while for the Cuban witnesses there was little to choose between England and Turkey.

Proceedings had already been promptly started in Turkey and were proceeding with due despatch when the writ in the English action was issued.

There was no evidence that it would cost more to litigate in Turkey than in England, but it was self-evident that would be more expensive to litigate in two places sumultaneously over the same dispute.

For all those reasons, his Lordship would allow the appeal and restore the stay on the English action, on condition that the Turkish shipowners undertook to provide security for any counterclaim brought by the Cuban shipowners in the Turkish action.

Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Keith delivered concurring speeches.

LORD BRANDON also agreeing said that with the greatest respect, the members of the Court of Appeal in the present case appeared to have fallen into error by giving insufficient weight to the epithet "mere" in the expression "mere balance of convenience" and "mere disadvantage of multiplicity of suits" used in the authorities (*Tillie Lykes, Atlantic Star* and *Macshannon*).

Mere balace of convenience could not, of itself, be decisive in tilting the scales; but strong, and *a fortiori* overwhelming, balance of convenience might, and in many cases probably would, be so.

The same applied to multiplicity of suits, involving serious consequences with regard to expense or other matters. In his Lordship's opinion, the criticism made by the Court of Appeal, that Mr Justice Sheen had erred in principle in treating the coexistence of the Turkish action as a decisive factor, was not justified. It was not a case of mere balance of convenience; it was an overwhelming case. There had been no valid ground for the Court of Appeal interfering with the exercise of discretion vested in the judge at first instance. The appeal should be allowed.

Lord Templeman delivered a concurring speech.

Solicitors: Richards Butler & Co; Holman Fenwick & Willan.

Divisional Court

Justices should resolve doubt in defendant's favour

Regina v Bromley Justices, Ex parte Haymill (Contractors) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Ackner and Mr Justice Taylor

[Judgment delivered January 25]

A bench of three justices who had heard all the evidence in a case were required to proceed to a decision and were not entitled to send the case *for rehearing by another bench*, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court held granting an application by Haymill (Contractors) Ltd for judicial review of a decision by Bromley Justices.

Mr John Rennie for the applicants; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE ACKNER said that the applicants appeared at Bromley Magistrates' Court to answer a summons alleging the use of a vehicle with a steering gear which was *not maintained in good* and efficient order and properly adjusted. The vehicle had been involved in an accident.

The justices were faced with conflicting expert evidence about whether bolts had been loose or damaged before the accident or whether the accident had caused damage to the bolts.

The justices withdrew to consider their decision. They ordered that the case be reheard by another bench. In a affidavit sworn by the chairman, it was deposed that the absence of corroboration of the conflicting expert evidence had caused difficulty.

If justices felt unhappy about convicting a defendant, then their obligation was fairly to aquit. In *R v Bridgend Justices, Ex parte Randall* ([1975] Crim LR 287) Lord Justice *Lawton said that it was clearly* the justices' duty to reach a decision. The justices had to decide whether the prosecutor had proved the case. If he had they were under a duty to convict; if he had not they had to acquit.

If there was any reasonable doubt, the accused was entitled to have any doubt resolved in his favour.

Accordingly, the justices' decision not to reach a decision and to send the case for rehearing would be quashed and the applicants were entitled to an order of mandamus requiring the same bench reach a decision on the evidence already heard.

Mr Justice Taylor agreed.

Solicitors: Hughes-Narborough & Thomas, Woolwich.

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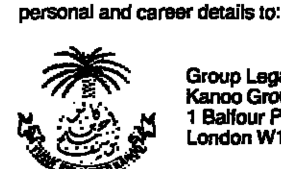
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PRIVATE PRACTICE

LONDON		
PERSONAL TAX Small City Practice seek sol. 2-4 yrs, qualified. Certain equity prospects.	City	£16,000 AAE
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Challenging opportunities exist in our Litigation and Construction Department for solicitors with 2/3 years post qualification experience.
Successful applicants will have a sound academic background and are likely to have gained post admission experience in substantial commercial litigation working as part of a team of lawyers assigned to look after the interests of large corporate clients. An ability to speak one or more foreign languages fluently will be an advantage.
The opportunity may arise for successful applicants to spend some time abroad in one of the firm's foreign offices.

Please write with full details to G. A. Bowles

McKenna & Co
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General practice in Swindon urgently requires a young Solicitor who must be a genuine "all rounder" but able to undertake litigation (including matrimonial and advocacy). There are genuine prospects after a trial period and the post would particularly suit someone with perhaps a young family looking to secure their professional and family future.

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Leading Hong Kong Solicitors wish to recruit an Assistant Solicitor with one or more years' experience in general civil litigation for their Litigation Department. The successful applicant will be expected to be able to handle all forms of contentious work including advocacy.
Included in the employment package is a generous housing allowance and annual holidays with air fares. Salaries are competitive and take into account age and experience. Interviews will take place in London during March. Apply with full CV and telephone number to

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THE TIMES

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Old established firm with large and expanding company commercial practice.
SOLICITOR, London trained, 1-3 years London experienced required to act as personal assistant to Senior Partner for up to two years and thereafter as member of team.
Partnership prospects. Salary according to experience.
Send full CV to Ref 19, Donne Mileham & Haddock,
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An ability to work in a multi-racial setting is essential and Asian languages an advantage.
For details and job description contact: Kama Achary or Barinder Minhas, Highfields and Belgrave Law Centre, 6 Seymour Street, LEICESTER LE2 0LB Tel: (0533) 532928 (10.30 am to 6.30 pm)
CLOSING DATE: First post 7th March 1984.

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We are a young, expanding two-partner commercial practice.
We are looking for highly competent, ambitious and hardworking solicitors, aged preferably between 28 and 38, with substantial experience in company/commercial law and/or commercial conveyancing, as potential equity partners. Earnings will reflect ability and fee-earning capacity.
Please reply in confidence to:

P E Faber Esq.,
Peter Faber & Co.,
61 Cheapside,
LONDON EC2V 6AX

Legal Appointments

LAWYERS

The widest range of career options

The Government Legal Service offers careers which encompass all aspects of the law. Whether in an advisory or decision-making role, or in general legal work or a specialised area, Lawyers can both gain invaluable experience and attain high levels of responsibility at an early stage.

Opportunities now exist in the following areas.

ADVISORY

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food—1 post
The Legal Department provides a comprehensive legal service to the Ministry. Particular topics covered include Common Agricultural Policy, food, animal health and welfare, agricultural tenure and the environmental aspects of farming. In line with MAFF's status as a leading European Department, this post will be mainly concerned with tendering advice on EEC law and litigation in the European Court.

Department of the Environment—4 posts
Beyond the interpretation of legislation, lawyers handle an exceptional variety of intellectually stimulating work. This can include tendering advice to Ministers and officials, mastering and interpreting complex legislation and objectively reviewing any wider legal issues that a case may raise.

Department of Health and Social Security—4 posts
In addition to providing a general advisory service, the Solicitors Office is involved in both home and EEC legislation relating to social security, health and welfare services and medicines.
These posts could initially involve dealing with civil litigation and advising upon the conduct of cases before social security tribunals.

Home Office—1 post
The Legal Advisers Branch tenders advice on a wide variety of legal topics including legislation and assists in the preparation and drafting of Bills, Statutory Instruments and other legal documents. A sound understanding of jurisprudence and common law is essential.

Departments of Trade and Industry—2 posts
In providing a comprehensive legal service to both the Department and the Export Credits Guarantee Department, lawyers are faced with a wide range of tasks involving, for example, general advisory work and negotiations concerning commercial, administrative, domestic, EEC and international law. *Much substantive and regulatory law in the commercial field is covered, relating to both nationalised and private industries.* These posts involve overseas travel.

ADVISORY AND LITIGATION

Inland Revenue—3 posts
These posts are in the Solicitor's Office which handles a wide range of legal work.
Lawyers tender advice in respect of taxes and rating valuations, conduct litigation and instruct counsel in the superior courts, and prepare cases for appeal tribunals and the lower courts.
Experience in advocacy would be advantageous.

ADVISORY/CIVIL LITIGATION

Treasury Solicitor's Department—3 posts
One of the largest legal departments in the world, the Treasury Solicitor's Department acts as Legal Adviser to most government departments and other government agencies. Lawyers deal with an immense variety of issues covering contracts, intellectual property and trusts, together with litigation in the High Court and the House of Lords. They also conduct cases at the Court of the European Community, present evidence in major public enquiries, and represent departments at other inquiries and tribunals.

CONVEYANCING

HM Land Registry—3-4 posts
London, Durham, Nottingham and, possibly, Weymouth.
The regional posts involve the examination of the more complex titles on first registration and advising on questions of law arising from dealings with registered land. A knowledge of conveyancing is required together with an interest in Real Property Law.
The London post calls for some knowledge of conveyancing, but also some experience of litigation and the ability to do advisory work arising from new or proposed legislation on land registration practice and the successful candidate will be a good, all-round lawyer.

GENERAL

Lord Chancellor's Department—2 posts
Lawyers are involved in every aspect of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. Tasks range across preparing summaries of cases, undertaking research, recording decisions, and tendering advice when necessary.

Welsh Office—1 post-Cardiff
The Health Service, conveyancing and litigation, and the provision of advice on education, housing, local government, transport and highways, are all topics covered by lawyers in the Welsh Office. This post has initial responsibility for litigation on *behalf of the District Health Authority in Wales, but may involve* wider legal issues in due course.

PROSECUTION

HM Customs and Excise—4 posts
Lawyers advise on and conduct committal proceedings in Magistrates' Courts in England and Wales and prosecute in Crown Courts. These posts will initially involve dealing with criminal cases, but may later involve civil litigation and general advisory work.

Department of The Director of Public Prosecutions —3 posts
Lawyers who work in small regional teams, advise on criminal matters, prepare cases for committal to Crown Courts and are involved in advocacy at Magistrates' Courts in England and Wales. Experience in criminal work would be advantageous. Some travel involved.

Unless otherwise stated, all posts are based in London.

All candidates must be admitted (or about to be) or called in England and have recent relevant practical experience. Appointments are at Legal Assistant level or, for candidates aged at least 27 and of marked ability and potential, Senior Legal Assistant.

Salaries: ***Legal Assistant – £8,590-£14,770,*** *starting on up to* £11,680 depending on age. Promotion to SLA could come after one year for those with at least 5 years' previous professional experience.

Senior Legal Assistant – £15,065-£20,565, according to age, *qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects to £24,000* and above.

Salaries for posts outside London £1,250 less.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24 February 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon *Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke* (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). **Please quote ref: G(1)576/3.**

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Total Oil Marine is a substantial North Sea operator supplying nearly 40% of the UK's natural gas. A wholly-owned subsidiary of a major French energy group, we are committed to an expanding programme of offshore activity and are currently developing the Alwyn North field.

You will join the small legal department based at our headquarters in London and be responsible for a wide range of joint-venture agreements, and for advising on exploration, development and production activities. Some travel within the UK and Europe will be involved.

A young, ambitious lawyer with at least 12 months' post-qualification experience, a first-class track record, the potential to develop rapidly, you will have been working in either the legal department of a company in the upstream oil industry or the commercial department of an established private practice.

You will enjoy a competitive, index-linked salary plus a comprehensive range of benefits, and will have every opportunity to advance your career with a respected and dynamic company.

In the first instance, please telephone or write with cv to Sue Jagger, Cripps, Sears and Associates Limited, (Personnel Consultants), 88-89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Telephone: 01-404 5701.

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LEGAL ASSISTANT
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A superb opportunity has arisen to progress with a well known International Computer Software company. Working for a charming new Lawyer you need initially some secretarial skills (90/50 wpm), minimum of 2 'A' levels and smart appearance. This position offers scope and involvement for an enthusiastic person with some legal experience.

Age 25–33.

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LOCUM SOLICITORS

We have a team of solicitors, legal executives and managing clerks to undertake assignments in any part of the country for emergencies such as sickness & maternity leave, holidays, overload, sabbaticals and recruiting difficulties. Many locums are seeking permanent posts and this is often a good method for employer and employee to make assessments. Locums and firms should ring
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01-623 5725
ASA LAW
202 Bishopsgate, EC2
LOCUM AND PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS FOR SOLICITORS

TWICKENHAM Solicitor with all-round ability, two to three years experience needed now by three Partner Firm primarily for family law, civil and criminal litigation together with other types of work. Advocacy expected. Partnership prospects for right person. Write with C.V. to Herbert Baron & Co., 124 St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, TW1 2EN (reference MCB).

CORPORATE TAX SOLICITOR, two years' post experience, required by medium-sized EC2 practice. New position. £14,000 neg. 0962 715270.

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London Base

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Currently we are seeking qualified and experienced lawyers to augment our well-established and highly professional Group Law Department providing legal services in the areas of International and Merchant Banking for the Group.

The successful candidates will join a team involved in demanding but very interesting work and should be able to make a significant *contribution to some of its areas of activity* which include the drafting and negotiating of international lending documentation and other capital and international finance market instruments.

Ideally you will be a qualified solicitor with up to three years post-qualification experience with a firm of City Solicitors, an international bank or similar institution. General banking experience in retail and merchant banking, leasing, ship finance and project finance, which are also areas of the Department's work, would be a distinct advantage.

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THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

HM Diplomatic Service

Barrister or Solicitor

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Legal staff are based in London but have frequent opportunities of overseas travel. They may also serve a tour of duty in one of HM Missions overseas and advise delegations at international meetings and conferences.

Candidates must be qualified as advocates, barristers or solicitors, preferably with experience of legal practice or legal research. Reasonable knowledge of French and/or another widely used European language would be advantageous.

Salary starting at £9,060 at age 22 to £11,680 at age 32 or over, and rising to £14,770. Promotion (and salary range £15,650 – £20,565) could come as early as age 27.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 28 February 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/6167.

Barrister or Solicitor

Babcock International plc, a leading engineering group with diverse United Kingdom and overseas interests, is seeking a lawyer with a minimum of 2 years industrial experience to join its Legal Department. The Department, located at the group head office in the West End of London, handles a wide range of legal responsibilities including drafting, negotiating and advising on contracts and licensing agreements, and provides a general legal service to group companies.

Competitive starting salary will be related to age and experience. There is a contributory pension scheme and travel within the United Kingdom will be involved.

Please telephone or write for an application form to:

Mrs. J.A. Deans,
Babcock International plc.,
Cleveland House,
St. James's Square,
London SW1Y 4LN.
Telephone 01-930 9766 Ext. 271.

Babcock International plc

MICHAEL FREEMAN & CO

Require a solicitor for their Company Commercial Department. Applicants should have at least 2 years post qualification experience *in this field and* be prepared to work under pressure in a busy department.

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A G Richards,
1 Great Cumberland Place,
London, W1H 7AL

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have an immediate vacancy for an assistant Solicitor with a view to early Partnership in their Trust Department. Age range 25-28 preferred, with an interest in country pursuits. Would suit late qualifier. Salary by arrangement.

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BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD

Young Commercial Lawyer

NEI plc
Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Our client is Northern Engineering Industries plc, an international power engineering group with a turnover of £850 million and a workforce of some 33,000 people. The Group wishes to appoint to its Head Office legal department a young commercial lawyer, reporting to the Group Solicitor, to operate mainly in support of the UK trading companies and the Group's expanding international business. The role will cover a broad range of legal and commercial matters with an emphasis on drafting, negotiating and advising on all types of commercial agreements and contract claims. Applicants probably in their mid 20's should be Solicitors or Barristers with 2 years' relevant post qualification experience in industry, commerce or private practice. They must be prepared to work under pressure in a demanding environment and develop rapidly their ability to guide, advise and represent senior operational management. Salary and benefits are excellent and there are distinct prospects of significant early development for an outstanding candidate.

G.T. Walker, Ref: 42493/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 0632-327455, *4 Mosley Street,* NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NE1 1DE.

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Solicitor – Manager Designate

Midlands Market Town, c.£16,000 + car + first class partnership prospects

The client is a well established Midlands based firm with offices throughout England. Steady expansion has now created the need for a qualified solicitor to join a busy office in a thriving market town with a view to assuming the management responsibility within a relatively short period. Business is broadly based covering a large area with emphasis on commercial and domestic conveyancing and significant involvement with the Local Authority. Applicants should have in the region of 10 years' general experience, which must include conveyancing, and ideally have knowledge of Local Government Law. Prospects of partnership within this forward thinking and progressive practice are excellent.

E. Sutton, Ref: 17245/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 01-734-6852, *Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyll Street,* LONDON, *W1E 6EZ.*

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We are an international firm of chartered accountants with offices throughout the UK.

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Abacus House
Gutter Lane
Cheapside
London EC2V 8AH

Legal Counsel

Europe, Africa, Middle East

Tektronix, Inc, a world leader in the production and sale of electronic test and measurement equipment and information display equipment, having worldwide sales over US$1.2 billion, seeks a lawyer with between three to five years' experience to work at one of its offices in Western Europe.

The successful candidate will have received a legal degree in the United States or have experience working for a US corporation or law firm. Total fluency in English is required and another European language is desirable. The lawyer selected will report to the Tektronix International Counsel in Beaverton, Oregon. The position is responsible for Tektronix's European, African and Middle Eastern legal affairs including US legal considerations to the extent they apply in that area. Considerable work will be involved in the areas of software licensing, multinational sales agreements, distributor agreements, European labour and employment laws, and US export licensing requirements, in addition to corporate, tax, real estate and other matters. Substantial travel within Europe and occasional travel to the US will be required. Salary is commensurate with ability and experience.

Please send detailed résumé and salary history to A. G. Kroos, Tektronix Europe B.V., PO Box 827-A, 1180 AV Amstelveen, The Netherlands.

Computer Appointments

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
COMPUTING SERVICE
SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER

Applications are invited for a Systems Programmer to work in the Mainframe/Filestore section of the Centrally Located Facilities Division of the University's Computing Service, to be concerned primarily with maintenance of the VME operating system running on an ICL 2988 computer.

Applicants should be in the possession of a good Honours Degree (or equivalent), and previous experience of the ICL VME (or VME/B) operating system would be an advantage. The appointment will be made on Grade 1A of the national Other Related Staff scale, currently in the range from £7,190-£11,615 per annum.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Personnel Office, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, where applications (8 copies), giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged on or before 24th February, 1984.

In reply please quote Ref No 5190E.

also on page 20

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM £3.25 a line (minimum 3 lines)

Announcements authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to:

THE TIMES
200 Gray's Inn Road
London
WC1X 8EZ

or telephoned (by telephone subscribers only) to: 01-837 3311 or 01-837 3333

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 9.00am and 12.00noon. (837 3333 only). For publication the following day, phone by 1.30pm.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc. on Court and Social Page. £5 a line. 01-237 1234 ext 7714

Court and Social Page announcements can not be accepted by telephone.

Most other classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone. The deadline is 5.00pm 2 days prior to publication (i.e. 5.00 pm Monday for Wednesday). Should you wish to send an advertisement in writing please include your daytime 'phone number

... EVERY CREATURE OF GOD is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving. 1 Timothy 4: 4.

BIRTHS

ASHER. – On January 20th in Los Angeles to Wendy (nee Worth) and Peter, a daughter, Victoria Jane.

ASSAEL.–On 3rd February, at Mt Alvernia, Guildford, to Vicky (nee Morton) and Robin–a son (Jonathan William), brother to Emily.

BALLANTINE – On February 3rd, in Chicago to Caroline (nee Harries) and Alistair, a son, Alexander.

BELL.–On January 27th, at Beckenham Maternity Hospital, to Gail (nee Hembrow) and Andrew–a son (Jonathan Robert).

BIGGS. – On Sunday 5th February at the Royal County Hospital, Winchester, to Caroline and Geoffrey, a daughter, Katherine Louise Florence, half-sister for William, Anthony, Philip, Richard and John.

BOYCOTT – On 29th January, to Zia and Robin, a daughter, Katherine...

[illegible]

...(née Hopkins) and Keith–a daughter (Bonnie Juliet).

WHYBROW – On 23rd January, 1984, at Colchester Maternity Hospital, to Annette (née Griffiths) and Stephen, a son, Edward David Herbert.

WRIGHT. On 17th January 1984, at Westminster Hospital to Wendy (née Morane-Griffiths) and John, a son.

DEATHS

ASHWANDEN – On January 15th, Nigel Sydney William Ashwanden, OBE, aged 78 years, of Cookham, Berkshire, mercifully after many years of suffering, husband of Lois, father of David, Penny, Pricilla (deceased) and James.

ATHERTON– On 4th February 1984 at Euxton Hall Hospital and of Haywain, 120a Mossy Lea Road, Wrightington, Wigan, Joseph I in his 63rd year, the beloved husband of Winifred, dearest father of Greg and Peter. Loving father-in-law of Jennifer and dearly loved grandpa of Hilary Anne. Fortified by the rights of The Holy Church. Funeral service on Friday 10th February to St Josephs Church, Wrightington at 12 noon, followed by private interment in the churchyard. Flowers or mass cards will be welcome or donations if desired for Medical Research would be greatly appreciated. All enquiries to Middleton & Wood (1919) Ltd. Tel Wigan 42876

ATKINSON – On January 17th, in Zimbabwe, Eleanor Margaret (Cyril), (née Eyre), of Crowhill, Borrowdale, Zimbabwe, widow of Bryan, dearly loved mother of Giles, Cerise and Judith.

BELL. – On February 4th in hospital, Major Michael William Heward, aged 72, late 13th, 18th Royal Hussars (QMO). Beloved husband of Pat and father of Rose, Daniel, Juliet and Rory. Private cremation.

BRENNINKMEYER. – On 30th December, 1983, suddenly, Gerard, husband of Doris and father of Dominic and Cornel. A family funeral took place on 4th January, 1984. RIP.

BROOKE. On February 5th, 1984, Alan George, dearly beloved husband of Diane and devoted father of Nicola and Nancy, suddenly but peacefully. Funeral will take place at St Peters Church, St Peters Road, St Albans, Herts, at 10.00am on Friday 17th February. Flowers to W. Goodchild & Sons, by Thursday evening. St Albans 53177.

DEATHS

BUZZARD – On January 28th, John Huxley, of Haxted House, Edenbridge, Kent, much loved husband of Hilary and father of Christopher, Thomas and Phyllida Jane. Cremation has taken place.

CLIFFORD. – Peacefully on February 4th, George David, of 49 Thornton Road, Cambridge, the very dear husband of Eileen. Funeral service at St Andrews Church, Girton, on Monday 13th February at 11.30am. Family flowers only, but if desired, donations may be sent to the RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ.

COOKE, JOAN MARJORY EILEEN, dearly beloved wife of Cyril and devoted mother of Elizabeth and Amanda, suddenly on February 3rd. No flowers by request. Donations if wished to Guide Dogs For The Blind or R.N.I.B.

COOPER. On February 2nd, as the result of an accident, Gillian Valerie Cooper, of Mount House, Pleshey, Chelmsford. Beloved wife of George and dear mother of Jeremy, Victoria and Emily. Funeral service at Pleshey Parish Church, on Thursday, February 9th, at 11.30 am. Enquiries and flowers to M. Lucking & Sons, 195 London Road, Chelmsford. Tel. (0245) 353733.

CRASTER OF CRASTER On 31st January 1984 Lady Jane in her 103rd year at Santa Cruz California. Memorial service at Craster to be announced.

CROXFORD. – On January 27th, 1984, peacefully at home, Ernest (Bert), dear husband to Frieda, father to Paul, Pat, Richard and Peter, grandpa to their children and brother to Dolly. Please, no letters, but donations if wished to Ex Services Mental Welfare Society, 37 Thurloe Street, London SW7.

DAVIDSON – On February 3rd in hospital, Sybil Gwendoline, of High Park Road, Ryde, widow of Colonel Henry Ironside Davidson and mother of Alastair. Service at Isle of Wight Crematorium on Friday February 10th at 1pm. Family flowers only.

DICKINSON. – On Sunday 5 February, peacefully at Victoria Hospital, Lewes, Evelyn George Lawrence Dickinson of 107 High Street, Lewes, Sussex. Loved husband of Helen, and father of Ailsa, Anne, Adrian and Mary. Requiem Mass and funeral at St Pancras Church, Lewes, 11am Wednesday 8 February. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Cancer Relief c/o R. H. Yarrow Esq, 6 Keere Street, Lewes.

FANE.–On Sunday, February 5th, J Onslow Fane, beloved husband of Chip, peacefully at home. Funeral service 2.30 p.m. on Friday, February 10th at Steventon Church, Steventon, Basingstoke, Hants.

FARRINGTON – On February 3rd, 1984 suddenly at Launceston Hospital, Ronald Dudley Farrington, CBE, FICE, of Yeomans, Canworthy Water, Launceston, Cornwall. Husband of Eileen, father of Jeremy and Jennifer. Funeral service Jacobstow Parish Church, near Bude, Cornwall, on Wednesday, 8th February at 2pm.

FRANCIS. – On February 4th peacefully at his home, John Henry Melville Francis, LRIBA. Very dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at Leatherhead Crematorium, Friday, February 10th at 11 am. No flowers please but donations to The Marie Curie Foundation may be sent to their address at 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG.

GRAY. – On 5 February, 1984, peacefully at Rush Court, Wallingford, Ronald Herbert Gray, OBE, MA, CEng, aged 81. Beloved husband and friend of Winifred and father of Robin and Jennie. Funeral at Oxford Crematorium...

[illegible]

RIDDELSDELL – On January 31st 1984, Yolande in her 66th year.

ROBERTSON – On Friday, 3rd February, Alice Sarah (Sally) (née Moxon), aged 86, of Elstree, Hertfordshire, widow of Stuart Robertson, mother of Elizabeth and Michael, grandmother of Sally, Nicky, Diana, Jane, Kate and David, greatly loved by all her family. Cremation at Golders Green Crematorium at 3.20pm on Thursday, 9th February. Family flowers only: if desired donations may be sent to The Musicians Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London W1.

RUSSELL – On February 6th, peacefully at home, Joe, aged 64 years. Darling husband of Norah and beloved father of John, Josephine and Dudley. At his request, private cremation. Please no letters, donations if wished, c/o Mrs Jackson, Kilner Ward, The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

RUSTOMJEE. – On 3rd February suddenly after a short illness Jamie B. Rustomjee (Rusty) dear husband of Dorothea. Funeral at Worcester Crematorium at 2 o'clock Thursday 9th February. No flowers please but donations to N.S.P.C.C.

SMITH. – On February 4th 1984, Clifford Halliday Kerr Smith, OBE, MC, MB, ChB, Brigadier RAMC (retired), peacefully at Walstead Place, Lindfield, Sussex, aged 93 years. Late of 33 Cathall Road, Haywards Heath and formerly of Hurstpierpoint. Husband of the late Elsie Douglas Smith. Funeral service at Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, Brighton, on Friday, February 10th at 1.30 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Frank Davey and Co., 31 High Street, Hurstpierpoint. Tel 0273 832179.

SPENCE – On January 31st, peacefully, Roby Spence, dearly loved husband of Jean, and father of Vivien, Martin and Paul. Funeral private, no flowers, but donations to The British Polio Fellowship (Croydon Branch). Please no callers for a few days.

WEBSTER. – on February 4th, peacefully in hospital, Ruth Mary. For many years a member of staff at Sutton High School and on the organising committee of the Girl Crusaders Union. Daughter of the late Reginald and Elsie Webster of South Croydon and beloved sister of John, Alec and Keith. Funeral service at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon on Tuesday, February 14th at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations are invited in her memory direct to Sutton High School Centenary Appeal (Sports Hall) or to the Girl Crusaders Union.

DEATHS

STAFFORD – On February 2nd, in her sleep at Horsham Hospital, after a gallant fight, Catherine (Kay) (née Rolle and at one time of the India office). The loving and greatly beloved wife of Frank Stafford, darling sister of Con and Joan, and aunt of Val and Jan. Funeral service at Guildford Crematorium today Tuesday, February 7th at 11.30am. No flowers by request.

URQUHART – On February 3rd, at the Ford Private Clinic, near Shrewsbury, Kathleen, dear sister of Anne, and greatly loved aunt and great aunt. Funeral service at St John's Hill Methodist Church, Shrewsbury, at 11.15am, on Friday, February 10th, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, donations if so desired to St John's Hill Methodist Church.

WOOD-PARKER. – On Thursday, 19th January, 1984, Verena Wood-Parker, beloved wife of Douglas and much loved mother of Fiona, Kate and Janetta. Donations to Cancer Research (Perth).

WURMSER – On January 31st, 1984, suddenly at Wimbledon Parkside Clinic, Alfred Gaston, aged 72 years of London and Cologne. Author, artist and much respected Fellow of the Royal Television Society. Funeral service on Tuesday, February 14th, at 1pm, at Zentral Friedhof Protestant Abteilung, Vienna. Flowers direct to Zentral Friedhof, Vienna. A memorial service will subsequently be held in the London area, date and place will be advised.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HUNTER. – A service of thanksgiving for the life of Dr Alastair Hunter, lately Consultant Physician to St George's Hospital and Dean of St George's Hospital Medical School will be held in St Pauls Church, Knightsbridge at 12 noon on Thursday 9th February, 1984.

IRVINE – A memorial service for Katherine Helen (Kitty) Irvine who died peacefully at her home on January 16th, will be celebrated at St Cuthberts Church, Philbeach Gardens on Saturday February 11th at 11.30 am

LEWIN – A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Ronald Lewin will be held at St Paul's Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, on Friday, 24th February, at 12 noon.

PENNEFATHER. – A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ray Pennefather of Ringwood and Tobermory, will be held at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London, at 11.00 on Wednesday, 22nd February. A second service will be held in the Isle of Mull at Eastertide.

SEWELL. – A Meeting for Worship to remember and give thanks for the life of William Gawan Sewell MSc, FRSC, will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Quakers Lane (near Busch Corner), London Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, on Saturday 18th February at 2.30 pm.

IN MEMORIAM

FLOOD - Jim. Remembered with love today and every day. Glad, Maia, Joey and families.

GRYLLS.–On 12th January, peacefully, in Cookridge Hospital, Diana, MH (formerly secretary of Queen Elizabeth College of Social Science, London University) and of 25 Robin Hood Way, Clifton Brighouse. Cremation took place on Wednesday, 18th January.

PHILLIPP – Remembered with love by Gwyneth, Victoria, Nicholas, William and Tom.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.00 **Ceefax AM.** News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Debbie Rix at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; David Wheal's television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; exercises at 7.25; horoscopes at 8.33; and Glynn Christian's cookery column and Alison Mitchell's money matters both between 8.30 and 9.00.

9.00 **The Craft of the Potter.** Part three of Michael Casson's series deals with decorating (r). 9.25 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School (r) 10.55 Ceefax.

12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather prospects come from Ian McCaskill. *12.57 Regional* news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles). **1.00 Pebble Mill at One.** Music and conversation from the foyer of the Birmingham studios. *1.45 Chock-a-Block.* A See-Saw programme for the very young (r).

2.00 ***Film: Vigil in the Night*** (1940) starring Carole Lombard. Drama based on the A. J. Cronin novel about a nurse working in an English provincial hospital who takes the blame when her sister, a nurse at the same hospital, makes an error of judgment that is the cause of a child's death. Directed by George Stevens. **3.30 Cartoon Double Bill.** 3.48 Regional news (not London).

3.50 **Magic Roundabout** (r) 3.55 **Play School,** presented by Sheelagh Gilbey. 4.20 *The Adventures of Tin Tin.* Episode two of Red Rackham's Treasure (r) 4.25 **Tottie–The Story of a Doll's House.** Part two. 4.40 **Jigsaw** 5.05 **John Craven's Newsround** 5.10 **Grange Hill.** *Episode 11 of the secondary* school drama and the day of the sponsored walk arrives.

5.40 **Sixty Minutes** includes news from Moira Stuart at 5.40; weather at 5.54; regional news magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 6.38.

6.40 **Harty.** Among Russell Harty's guests tonight are film actress Britt Ekland, Gerard Kenny and Matt Bianco.

7.40 **A Question of Sport.** Bill Beaumont and Emlyn Hughes lead their respective teams in a test of sporting knowledge.

8.10 **Dallas.** Sue Ellen is mistaken for Peter's mother; Catherine ends up in J. R.'s power; Miss Ellie and Clayton plan a pre-marriage holiday in Paris; while Mark mysteriously ends up in hospital.

9.00 **News** with John Humphrys.

9.25 **Show Business Awards.** The Variety Club of Great Britain's annual awards ceremony introduced from London's Hilton International Hotel by Terry Wogan and Ray Moore.

10.15 **The XIV Winter Olympic Games.** A preview of the games which open tomorrow in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

10.50 **Cup Soccer Special.**

11.20 **The Rockford Files: The Girl in the Bay City Boys' Club.** Someone becomes suspicious about a seemingly straightforward game of cards at a local youth club. Detective Jim receives a shock when he discovers how much is at stake. Starring James Garner (r).

12.10 **Weather.**

TV-am

6.25 ***Good Morning Britain*** presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.35; alarm call at 6.40 and 8.45; exercises at 6.50 and 9.15; the day's odd anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.26; guest of the day at 7.40; pop at 7.50; inside a celebrity's house at 8.15; holiday advice at 8.20; video report at 8.35; and baby talk at 9.05.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines 9.30 **For Schools:** Elementary arithmetic 9.45 Location and *direction 10.44 A young boy* sends his grandmother a card 10.21 German conversation 10.43 Evolution: Relationships 11.08 A little girl and her mother buy a pet 11.25 Bananas 11.38 Play: The *Watched,* by Christopher Priest.

12.00 **Cockleshell Bay.** Seaside adventures of the Cockle twins 12.10 **Rainbow** with guest, magician, Ali Bongo (r) 12.30 The Sullivans. Drama serial *about an Australian family* during World War Two.

1.00 **News** with Leonard Parkin *1.20 Thames news* 1.30 A Plus 2.00 **Crown Court: Dirty Washing.** A nurse is accused of militant picketing during a strike at a hospital. The injuries to a passenger in a van, caused by her, were the result of an accident, she claims.

2.30 **Comedy Tonight.** Comedians reminisce about their earliest performances 3.00 **Mr and Mrs.** Quiz game for married couples 3.30 **Miracles Take Longer.** Drama serial set in a community advice centre.

4.00 **Cockleshell Bay.** A repeat of *the programme shown at noon* 4.15 **Batfink.** Animated adventure of a bionic bat **4.20 On Safari.** Fun and games in a studio jungle with Christopher Biggins and guests, Sally James and Brian Jacks 4.45 *CBTV News, views and ideas* for young people 5.15 **Emmerdale Farm** Dolly Skilbeck tries to help a friend with a handicapped daughter.

5.45 **News. 6.00 Thames news.**

6.20 **Help!** Community action news from Viv Taylor Gee.

6.30 **Crossroads.** Lisa Walters is talked into a date by Colin Sands.

6.55 **Reporting London,** presented by Michael Barratt includes and investigation into the BMA's report on the health hazards of boxing.

7.30 **Film: More Than Murder** (1983) A made-for-television thriller starring Stacy Keach as *detective Mike Hammer.* His best friend is suspended from the police force after cocaine was found in his car while he was working on a drugs case. Hammer determines to clear his friend's name. *Directed by* Gary Nelson.

9.00 **The Jewel in the Crown.** Episode six. In Pankot, Susan learns of Teddie's death from Sarah who, in turn, begins a journey to bring comfort to an injured man.

10.00 **News.**

10.30 **First Tuesday** Jonathan Dimbleby and Jane Walmsley introduce three films – The Town That Builds the Bomb; Survivors of the Kwai; and *Heavy Metal (see Choice).*

11.30 **Levkas Man** Episode one of a new series about a man's search for his archaeologist father, missing in Greece. Starring Robert Colby.

12.25 **Night Thoughts** from Canon Peter Challen, senior chaplain of the South London Industrial Mission.

Wendy Morgan as Susan Bingham: Jewel in the Crown (ITV 9.0pm)

● Yorkshire Television's justifiably popular monthly series FIRST TUESDAY (ITV 10.30pm) features three films in tonight's edition. Heavy Metal, the shortest, is perhaps the most disturbing. It is an American-made investigation into the big business of selling automatic machine guns to private citizens in the United States. The ease by which these deadly weapons may be obtained is underlined by the statistics that there are four times as many of these weapons in private hands than in those of the law enforcement authorities. The weapons are bought by people who believe war is fun – former GIs hankering after the good old days of Vietnam – and listening to them talk about their passion is, in some respects, infinitely more chilling than The Day After. This latter film could not have had a friendly

CHOICE

reception from the citizens of Amarillo, the subject of The Town That Builds the Bomb. Despite boasting the world's biggest cattle auction and slaughterhouse, the Texas town's main employer is the Pantex plant that builds five nuclear warheads a day. Leading citizens voice their approval of the plant but one dissenting voice is that of the eccentric owner of the local TV station, Stanley Marsh IV, who likens the close proximity of Pantex to living on the San Andreas fault. The lingering suffering of survivors of the Thai-Burma railway is examined in Survivors of Kwai, a harrowing film that rams home the reality of the suffering inflicted by the Japanese on British prisoners-of-war and totally discredits the glamourised Hollywood version of events. Five survivors of the three year ordeal are interviewed and all are embittered about bureaucratic refusal to recognise that the ill-health they have today was caused by events of 40 years ago. If the mental ordeal was not enough, doctors have now discovered that an estimated 2,000 of the survivors suffer a worm infestation that is potentially lethal

● ON THE WATERFRONT (BBC2 8.10pm) is a worthy Chronicle story of the race by archaeologists of the Museum of London to excavate the 2,000 year old site of Billingsgate Fish market before developers moved in to build the inevitable office block. It is an enlightening exercise with layers of history being removed to reveal artefacts associated with the major Saxon port that was originally on the site

BBC 2

7.20 **Open University: Science – the Planet Earth.** Ends at 7.45.

8.55 **Daytime on Two:** Part four of the six-programme series tracing the evolution of the modern symphony orchestra. 9.20 Modern History: June 1940 – Britain alone. 9.48 Maths: half-turn symmetry. 10.10 Part four of the story of The Boy from Space. 10.35 How Glasgow has been re-developed since World War Two. 11.00 *Watch* 11.17 Life in a rural community, stricken by drought, in north-east Brazil. 11.40 Castles.

12.03 Programme four of David Bellamy's eight-part exploration of North America's botanical history. 12.35 Modern day Japan. 1.05 Geometry for adults studying for O-levels. 1.19 Science: Fertilisation in plants and animals. 1.40 Health: What Am I Made Of? 2.00 You and Me. 2.15 Tin mining. 2.40 Figure drawing.

3.00 **World Bowls:** The first day's play in the Embassy World Indoor Bowls Championship. This afternoon's game is between the defending champion, Bob Sunderland of Scotland and Sammy Allen from Northern Ireland.

5.35 *News summary with subtitles*

5.40 **The Discovery of Animal Behaviour.** Part five of the award-winning series features items on bees that cannot discern the colour red; on Konrad Lorenz who became a surrogate mother to a family of goslings; and on Niko Tinbergen who devised tests which revealed how birds and fish talk to each other (r)

6.35 **Top Priority.** An animated film *produced by the National Film* Board of Canada.

6.45 **Tucker's Luck.** Alan feels like a gooseberry when he is the only one without a girlfriend (r)

7.10 **Travellers in Time: Pearls and Savages.** A film, made in 1921 of an expedition to the island of Papua, at the time inhabited by savages (r).

7.40 **Play: If Only,** by David Cook. The story of a young boy's grief after his best friend is *drowned.*

8.10 **Chronicle: On the Waterfront.** A documentary about the excavation of Billingsgate Fish Market (see Choice).

9.00 **Alas Smith and Jones.** Comic sketches from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones *and their* team.

9.30 **Your Life in Their Hands.** Birmingham postman John Devonshire prepares for an operation under John Pearce, opthalmic surgeon at Bromsgrove *General Hospital,* to restore his sight.

10.00 **World Bowls.** Highlights of first round matches in the Embassy World Indoor Championship.

10.30 **Newsnight.**

11.15 **World Bowls.** More highlights of the action from Coatbridge. Ends at 12.00.

CHANNEL 4

4.45 **Television Scrabble.** Yesterday's winners return to face a challenge from a *member of the public and Julia* McKenzie.

5.15 **Years Ahead.** Magazine programme for the older viewer, presented by Robert Dougall. The amalgamation of the Jewish Blind Society and the Sylvia Leighton Centre has formed a major day resource centre. Years Ahead spends a day at the centre in the company of one of its regular visitors: Mr and Mrs Daniels, the parents of Paul, talk about their famous son and how they help him with ideas and props for his performances; there is also an item on Funeral Societies; and the archive spot is film of Lady Astor.

6.00 **Bewitched.** American comedy series about a man who marries a witch. This week Darrin, the husband, is laid up on bed with his leg in plaster. Wife, Samantha tires of having to minister to him so she offers Darrin her powers of witchcraft so that he can help himself.

6.30 **Country Crisis?** Part six of the series that examines what life is really like for people who live and work in rural areas *examines the problem of who* really is the power in the countryside. Is it the local authorities or is it the unseen bureaucrats in Brussels?

7.00 **Channel Four News.**

7.50 **Comment.** On the soap-box this evening is Bernard Juby, chairman of the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses.

8.00 **Brookside.** The mysterious illness of Annabelle's is *depressing her; Damon's* stabs at cooking are a disaster; and Heather receives good news about her career prospects but her high spirits are dampened by a visit from her neighbour, Alan.

8.30 **Take Six Cooks.** The final course is prepared by John Huber, a food lecturer, who imparts the secrets about all kinds of desserts.

9.00 **Film: The Silent Flute** (1978) *starring Jeff Cooper,* David Caradine, Christopher Lee and Eli Wallach. A martial arts film about a man's quest for the Book of Enlightenment and the dangers he encounters in his search. Directed by Richard *Moore.*

10.50 **Eastern Eye.** In the studio talking to Dippy Chaudhary is the most successful Indian pop star, Sheila Chandra. There are also items on two 16-year old Asian boys who *built a best selling computer* action game; on the deportation threat to several thousand Tamils living in Britain; and a report on the controversy about the Bradford headmasters who *are refusing to monitor attacks* on Asian children.

11.45 **Closedown.**

Radio 4

6.00 News briefing. Weather.
6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 6.45 Prayer for the Day 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.00, 8.00 Today's News 7.20 Your Letters 7.25, 8.235 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament 8.57 Weather; Travel.
9.00 News.
9.05 Tuesday Call: 01-580 4411. The subject is: Food to keep you fit. Listeners can put their questions on health-giving diets to the nutritionist Caroline Walker, and to Gail Duff, a writer of cookery books. The presenter is Barbara Myers.
10.00 News: From Our Own Correspondent.
10.30 Morning Story: 'Beach Rags' by Shirley Mitchell. The reader i Ysanne Churchman.
10.45 Daily Service.
11.00 *News; Travel; Thirty Minute* Theatre 'Roman Fever' by Edith Wharton. Two American women, holidaying in Rome, look back on their past lives. With Rosemary Leach and Maggie McCarthy (r).
11.33 Wildlife.
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 *Legal, Decent, Honest and* Truthful. With Martin Jarvis and Christopher Godwin† 12.55 Weather; Programme News.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News: Woman's Hour. Today's *edition includes a feature in which* Frances Donnelly takes a course to make the most of her dynamic potential. Plus the sixth instalment of The Captain and the Kings.
3.00 Afternoon Theatre: Welbourn Street, by Rachel Wyatt. With Garrick Hagon and Liza Ross. Mr Hagon plays the adulterous husband who starts to receive odd threatsand decides that he is being blackmailed. The setting is suburban Ontario. Also taking part are Shelley Thompson, Margaret Robertson and others.†
4.00 News; Just After Four. Busking in Burnley. With Jeff Nuttall.
4.10 The Empty Qurter. Ted Edward's bid to cross southern Sahara. He provides his own commentary on the 300-mile journey, which was made on foot.
4.40 Story Time: 'Atlantic City Proof' by Christopher Cook Gilmore (2).
5.00 PM: News Magazine 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather: Programme News.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News: Financial Report.
6.30 Three Men on The Bummell by Jerome K Jerome. The performer is Jeremy Nicholas.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Medicine Now. A report on health of medical care.
7.50 *The Most Important 40 Minutes of My Life. Mike Chaney looks at* the thousands of Britain's managers who lose their jobs every year
8.20 Last Tales From the South China Seas. *The lives of the British in* S.E. Asia in the days of the *empire (last of 6 programmes).* Tonight: Mopping Up. Handing Over, Staying On.
9.05 In Touch. Magazine for the visually handicapped.
9.30 Gemmell's Gardens: Savill Garden, in Windsor Great Park, Surrey
9.45 *Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine.* Presented by Paul Allen.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Fire Falcon' by Duff Hart-Davis (7). The reader is Paul Young.
10.30 The World Tonight, including 11.0 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News 12.10 Weather 12.15 Shipping Forecast 12.23-12.28 The Chip Shop with Barry Norman

ENGLAND VHF as above except: 6.25-6.30am Weather: Travel 10.45-12.00 *For Schools:* 10.45 *The Song Tree* 11.00 Time and Tune 14 11.20 Time to Move 11.40 Listen and Read 11.55 Reading Music 1.55pm Listening Corner 2.00-3.00 For Schools: 2.00 History: Not So Long Ago 2.20 The Bicycle Programmes 2.40 Pictures in Your Mind (stories) 5.50-5.55 PM (continued) 11.00-11.30 Study on 4: The Chip Shop with Barry Norman 12.30-1.10am Schools Night-Time Broadcasting: 12.30 Voix de France 12.50 14: La France des affaires (4).

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: part one. Bach's Violin Concerto in A minor, BWV 1041 (Goldberg is soloist); Stamitz's Quartet for wind in W flat, Op 8 No 2; Tallis's tunes for Archbishop Parker's psalter; Vaughan William's Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis. † 8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert: part two. Dukas's The Sorceror's Apprentice: Brahms's Piano Pieces, Op 119 (Katchen, piano): and Haydn's Symphony No 51.† 9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Bartok. The Romanian Dances: the Suite Op 15 (Perahia, piano), and String Quartet No 2.†
10.00 Sibelius: the Bournemouth SO play the Symphony No 3: and Pohjola's Daughter, Op 49.†
10.50 Modern Madrigals: The BBC Singers perform works by Christopher Brown (Four Madrigals, Op 29), Richard Rodney Bennett (And can the physician anon); and Robin Holloway.†
11.20 Music Group of London: Mozart's Piano Trio in C, K 548; and Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor.†
12.15 Midday Concert: BBC Scottish SO, with Fiona Doble (soprano), Christine Cairns (mezzo) and S. Cecilia Choir of Royal Scotish Academy of Music and Drama: part one. Nicolai's Merry Wives of Windsor overture; and Haydn's Symphony No 81.† 1.00 News.
1.05 Midday Concert: part two. Mendelssohn's Incidental Music Midsummer Night's Dream.†
2.00 Guitar Encores: Paco Peña and Juanito Adrian in arrangements of some traditional flamenco forms – Soleares, Guajiras and Sevillanas †
2.15 South German Radio SO: Part One. With Felicity Palmer (soprano). Haydn's Symphony No 60: and Schoenberg's Four Songs, Op 22. Then, at 3.05 Beethoven's Symphony No 3 – with interval reading at 2.55.†
4.00 Alberni String Quartet: Puccini's I Crisantemi: and Mozart's Quartet in A major, K 464;† 4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: another of Jeremy Siepmann's selections.
5.30 Medieval Song: performed by the Sequentia Ensemble of Cologne, with Paul Hillier (voice and harp).†
7.00 A Genius for Routine: Mr Justice Michael Kirby, chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission, who has taken a special interest in the elthical and legal dilemmas posed by modern medicine – dilemmas calling urgently for routine solutions – is heard in conversation with Professor Ian Kennedy.
7.30 British Music: the London SO, with Kathryn Stott (piano). Part one. Walton's Partita, 1957: and the first performance of George Lloyd's Piano Concerto No 4.†
8.20 A Day in the Life of John Ruskin: The reader is Robin Ellis. This is the first programme in a second series of four. Subsequent subjects are A C Benson, Arnold Bennett and James Agate.
8.40 British Music: concert. Part two. Vaughan Williams's Symphony No 6 (direct from the Royal Festival Hall, in London).†
9.30 By Any Other Name: David Kossoff reads Edwin Ornstein's story.
9.55 Edward Cowie: the Fitzwilliam String Quartet play the String Quartet No 2.†
10.30 Book, Music and Lyrics: Another of Robert Cushman's record selections of music from the stage musicals. Tonight: The Cole Porter Revue: the 1940s.†
11.15 The News. Until 11.18.

Radio 2

News on the hour. Major bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00 pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight. News headlines: 5.30 am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30 (MF/MW). 4.00 am Colin Berry† incl 4.02; 5.02 Cricket. 5.30 Ray Moore† incl. 6.02 Cricket. 7.30 Terry Wogan† incl. 8.31 Racing Bulletin. 10.00 Jimmy Young† . 12.00pm Steve Jones† incl. 1.05 Sport. 3.30 Music All the Way.† 4.00 David Hamilton† incl. 4.02; 5.05 Sport. 6.00 John Dunn† incl. 6.02 Sport. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (MF only). 8.00 Soccer Special. Coverage of Milk Cup semi-final (on medium wave only). 9.30 Night Owls† (Continued from VHF). 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.00 When Housewives had the Choice? The third of five programmes (3) Too Hot to *Mangle (Summer 1948). 11.00 Brian* Matthew presents Round Midnight (stereo from midnight). 1.00am Patrick Lunt† presents Nightride. 3.00 Big Band Special† . 3.30-4.00 String Sound† VHF: 4.00am With Radio 2. 8.00pm The Golden age of Hollywood. History of Amercian movies (14). The year is 1947 when Disney films were at the height of their popularity. Narrator: James Mason. 9.00 Night Owls† (on MW and VHF from 9.30pm). 9.30 With Radio 2. 10.00 With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

Radio 1

News of the half-hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and then at 12.00 midnight (MF/MW). 6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Mike Smith, including 12.30 Newsbeat. *2.00 Steve Wright. 4.30 Peter Powell,* including 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.00 David Jensen. 10.00-12.00 John Peel† . VHF Radios 1 and 2 AM 4.00am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Classical Record Review. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections 8.15 After Hours. 8.30 Thirty Minute Theatre. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financ News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues. 10.00 Discovery. 10.30 The Tone Poets. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 Letter fom London. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Women of the World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 Network UK. 1.45 A Jolly Good Show. 2.30 Sherlock Holmes. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 *Commentary.* 4.15 Talking About Music. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Meridian. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 9.15 Letter From America. 9.25 Paperback Choice. 9.30 London's Concert Tradition. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Scotland this Week. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 After Hours. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 A Jolly Good Show. 1.15 Outlook: News Summary. 1.45 Report on Religion. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 The Bach Family. 2.30 Sherlock Holmes. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Discovery. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Waveguide. 5.45 The World Today.

(All times in GMT)

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN.
† Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat.

BBC1 WALES. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales headlines. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales headlines. 5.55 Wales Today. 12.00am News and weather. SCOTLAND. 12.55pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 5.55 Scotland: Sixty Minutes. 10.50 The Rockford Files. 11.40 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND. 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. 5.55 Scene Around Six. 12.00am News and weather. ENGLAND. 5.55pm Regional news magazines. 12.05am Close.

S4C Starts 2.00pm Hwynt Ac Yma. 2.20 Ffalabalam. 2.35 Y Gandff Hon. 2.55 Interval. 3.00 Face The Press. 3.30 The Motor Show. 4.00 Union World. 4.25 Television Scrabble. 4.55 Pictiwrs Bach. 5.05 Bilidowcar. 5.30 Buck Rogers. 6.25 No Problem. 6.55 Gair Yn Ei Bryd. 7.00 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Cefn Gwlad. 8.00 Dawn. 8.30 Elinor. 9.05 St. Elsewhere. 10.05 Other Side Of The Tracks. 11.00 Eleventh Hour. 12.05am Gair Yn Ei Bryd. Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Farming Brief. 12.30 pm-1.00 *Crown Court.* 1.20 News. 1.30 Afternoon Club. 1.30 No 1 Show. 2.10 Country Practice. 3.10 Newsbreak. 3.20 Sullivans. 3.50-4.00 A-Z. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Devlin Connection. 12.30 am Company, Closedown.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

SCOTTISH As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 That's Hollywood. 1.20-1.30 Scottish news. *2.30-3.00 That's My Boy. 5.10 Job Spot.* 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 What's Your Problem? 7.00-7.30 Take the High Road. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Studio. 12.05am Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Mr and *Mrs. 1.20-1.30 Channel News.* 2.30-3.30 The Agatha Christie Hour: The Case of the Discontented Soldier. 5.15-5.45 Metal Mickey. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.45-7.30 Pitch In. 11.30 Timeless Land. 12.25am News in French.

YORKSHIRE As London except: *12.30pm-1.00 One of* the Boys. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.00 Calendar. 3.00-3.30 Family Trees. 5.15-5.45 Survival. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.35am Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardens for All. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30 That's Hollywood. 3.00-3.30 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Bygones. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace* 12.40am Tuesday Topic, Closedown.

TSW As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.20-1.30 News: 2.30-3.30 Agatha Christie Hour. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.35 Televiews. 6.45-7.30 Pitch In. 11.30 Timeless Land. 12.25am Postscript, Closedown.

HTV As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 My Life. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 Trapper John, MD. 5.15-5.45 Beverly Hillbillies. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Boom Town Rats. 12.35am Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales At Six.

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.30-3.30 We'll Meet Again. 5.15-5.45 Joanie Loves Chachi. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Brass in Concert. 12.15am News, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25 am-9.30 Day Ahead. 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.30 Paint Along with Nancy. 3.00-3.30 Nature of Things. 5.15-5.45 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 News, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25-9.30am First Thing. 12.30pm-1.00 That's Hollywood. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.30 The Protectors. 3.00-3.30 Mr & Mrs. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 All Kinds of *Country.* 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.30am News, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am-9.30 North-east news. 1.20pm-1.30 North-east news and Lookaround. 2.30-3.30 We'll Meet Again. 5.15-5.45 It Looks Familiar. 6.00 North-east news. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 That's Hollywood. 12.00 Epilogue.

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Crown Court. 1.00 News at One. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Miracles Take Longer. 2.30 Agatha Christie Hour. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 5.15-5.45 Mr and Mrs. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 News. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Quentin E Deverill. 12.30am Closedown.

GRANADA As London except: 1.20 pm Granada reports. 1.30-2.00 Exchange Flags. 2.30 Protectors. 3.00-3.30 Mr and Mrs. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 This is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30 Granada Reports. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 11.30 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace*. 12.40 am Closedown.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; **Radio 4:** 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; **LBC** 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m: VHF 95.8; **BBC Radio London** 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; **World Service** MF 648kHz/463m.

Cabinet is weakened by fear of leaks

Continued from page 1

Cabinet, giving ministers who had not been closely involved the opportunity to have their say.

That practice has now ceased. In a revealing passage of an interview yesterday in the *Daily Mail*, Sir Geoffrey said that the GCHQ decision had not been discussed by the full Cabinet and added "It was discussed, as almost every government decision is discussed, by the group of ministers most directly involved". "There are very few discussions of government decisions by full Cabinet."

Ministers regret the change of practice. It has been seen by some as a desire on the part of the Prime Minister to increase her own power, but others say that the fear of leaks by politically-motivated civil servants is also a strong factor.

Some recent disclosures of Cabinet documents have caused much unease within the Government. The public anger which has accompanied some of them, and which ministers were certain would have been caused by a premature revelation of the Cheltenham decision, is seen as a threat to democratic decision-taking within the Government.

GCHQ campaign, page 2

Chia-Chia gives blood to save German panda

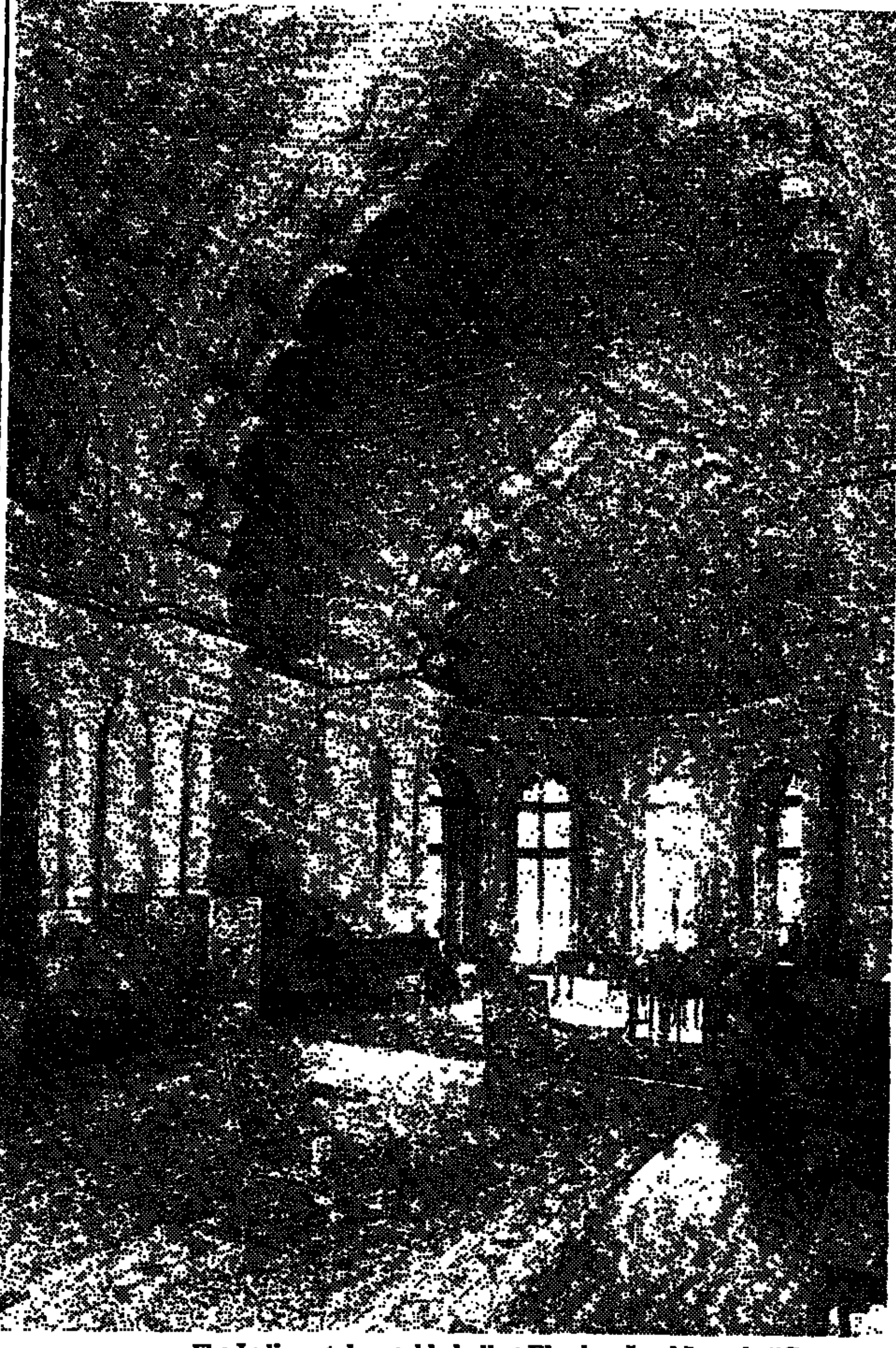
By Tony Samstag

London Zoo yesterday flew two pints of blood drawn from Chia-Chia, its giant panda, to West Berlin Zoo where another giant panda was seriously ill with gastro-enteritis.

Tjen-Tjen, or Little Heaven, was moved from the zoo to a university clinic for the transfusion.

Chia-Chia's blood, packed in ice, was rushed to Heathrow airport to catch the lunchtime flight and was met on arrival in West Berlin by a helicopter.

Chia-Chia, none the worse for wear, was given vitamin supplements with its usual meal of bamboo, boiled rice, minced meat, eggs, monkey pellets and honey. The vitamins were the equivalent of the cup of sweet tea offered to human blood donors the zoo said.



The Indian-style marble hall at Elveden. Lord Iveagh: "Cannot afford to live in Britain."

Dulip Singh: Bought house in 1863

Dust sheets raised on Elveden sale

Richard Dowden and Louise Nicholson

A magnificent collection of furniture, paintings, tapestries, and silver which has been under dust sheets in a Suffolk country house since 1939 is to be sold in May.

The Earl of Iveagh, head of the Guinness family, is to sell the contents of Elveden, near Thetford, the family's English house for 90 years.

Lord Iveagh said: "I cannot forsee my living in the house again, as I now live in Ireland. I would therefore like others to have the opportunity of enjoying the works of art as much as I and my family have done in the past."

The sale at the house starts on May 21 and will last four or five days, it is expected to raise more than £2.5m.

The sale will include Chippendale dining chairs, a collection of nineteenth century English marine paintings, Gobelins tapestries, Persian rugs and two sixteenth century Spanish altar frontals, as well as books, silver, and ceramics. There are more than 2,500 separate lots in the sale.

According to auction experts it would seem that there is a great deal of material but nothing of outstanding value. It is understood that the house and the 23,000 acre estate around it will not be sold.

Christie's mysteriously announced last week that they had been instructed to sell the contents of "one of the strangest stately homes in Britain". They would give no futher details except that the house was two and half hours drive from London and that the contents had been under dust sheets since 1939.

This led to a treasure hunt with leading art experts and country house gossips scratching their heads and consulting recent obituary columns.

The original house was built in the 1760s by Admiral Lord Keppel. It was then rebuilt between 1870 and 1871 by Dulip Singh, the Punjabi prince, who was pensioned off by the British with a stipend of £50,000 a year in 1849.

He came to live in England and bought Elveden for £283,000 in 1863 to indulge his taste for luxury, chorus girls, and shooting game.

His Indian style was continued by the first Earl of Iveagh when he bought the house in 1894.

The present Lord Iveagh grew up at Elveden and attended the local school. Staff were retained to look after the house

Lord Iveagh is chairman of Guinness, the brewery company, in which the family hold about 22 per cent of the shares. In 1975 he said he could no longer afford to visit Britain for tax reasons and now lives in the family's country seat in co Dublin.

Stronger protection for Indian diplomats

Continued from page 1

visited Mr Mhatre's distraught wife and daughter in Birmingham.

Mr Baldey Kohli, Indian Assistant Commissioner in Birmingham, said: "We are deeply shocked at this cowardly crime. It is a brutal act of terrorism. Mr Mhatre was a devoted family man."

A variety of Kashmiri groups in Britain have campaigned politically for self-determination for the people of the disputed state, one-third of which is occupied by Pakistan and two-thirds by India with a ceasefire line policed by the United Nations.

A letter delivered to Reuters international news agency claimed responsibility for the kidnap on behalf of the KLA and said the Indian diplomat they were holding would be shot if three demands were not met.

The first demand was for the release of Maqbool Butt, Abdul Hammid and M Riaz, who should be sent back to Kashmir by the following day.

It also demanded the release of all political prisoners in Indian-held Kashmir, including Altas Querashi, Iqbal Querashi, M Hammeed, Hammid Lala, Azam Inqualabi and Nazir and Bashir Butt.

Demand three was for £1m. The letter apparently gave no instruction on how the money was to be delivered but it ended "If any of the above demands are not met within the given time we shall kill the diplomat."

The murder was widely condemned in Britain yesterday, but led to renewed calls from leaders of the Kashmiri communities for a resolution of the 12-year-old stalemate over the area (Pat Healey writes).

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, said the murder was "an unforgivable and pointless act", and asked the Indian High Commissioner in London to pass his condolences to Mr Mhatre's family.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher sent a personal message to Mrs Gandhi, expressing her horror and her sympathy at Mr Mhatre's death.

The murder was also condemned yesterday by Mr Mohammed Chisti, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Moslem Conference UK, when he led a group lobbying MPs for pressure to be put on the Indian and Pakistani Governments to hold a referendum to determine Kashmir's future.

An estimated 100,000 Kashmiris are believed to live in Britain.

Robert Fisk in Beirut

Gunmen return to a devastated city

It started with the sort of blind panic we have seen so often. Bursts of rifle fire came from one end of Hamra Street. Someone told us the French were under attack. The radios started talking about a curfew. There was a roaring explosion in the sky as a shell burst somewhere on its way towards the Lebanese Army garrison along the coast.

And then came a mass of shouting. Terrified motorists began driving crazily out of the commercial centre of west Beirut, fists bunched over their car horns, sometimes colliding with each other, their vehicles leaping on to the pavement, surrounded by screaming pedestrians, all running our of Hamra.

There was again the cracking matchstick noise of automatic fire. And suddenly down the road past a petrol lorry came a motorcycle. On it was a man with a black leather hood, holding the handlebar in his right hand while his left gripped the stock of a Kalashnikov. The gunmen were back. At the radio station of Rue de Rome, Lebanese troops were walking into the building – bewildered, disconsolate. "What's happening?" one asked me. "Have you seen the Army at the Bain Militaire? Are they still there?" He was sweating under his steel helmet.

Behind him, others were sitting or smoking beside tents pitched next to an exhibition hall. They were all listening to the explosions which rumbled over the city – deep, thunderous detonations which seemed to come from beneath the ground.

Round the corner from the Moscow Narodny Bank stood a green-uniformed militiaman. He had a smart, thin beard and wore a camouflage jacket with a Koranic quotation on the breast pocket and beneath it the symbol of a white, curved Arabic sword. He was directing traffic, ordering young men to guard the block of flats behind him, but all the time grinning benignly at the frightened motorists.

It was only midday, but Beirut was beginning to grow dark. You hardly noticed it at first. The sunshine started to dim and a sort of soft yellow cloud seemed to be passing over the emptying streets, like an unseasonable sea mist. When you looked up, though, you could actually see it getting darker and smell smoke in the air.

The fog of battle, which novelists always write about, was creeping across the capital from the dozens of fires generated by the fighting aound Corniche Mazraa.

Within an hour, the streets were deserted. A few cats chewed their way through the pavement rubbish heaps. Men in pyjamas appeared on a balcony. Three girls peered out of a window with faded green shutters, waiting to see what would happen next. In truth, everyone knew.

There was a burst of sniper fire, high-pitched cracking explosions which echoed against the walls and was taken up by dozens of other gunmen until the streets were alive with the sound. You could hear the bullets swishing overhead.

Gunfire snapping on the roadway

We took a walk towards the sea, or tried to – with that unique casual gait supposed to persuade gunmen to ignore you, jogging across Hamra Street, pausing in doorways to talk to frightened shopkeepers or householders.

Usually, they wanted to tell us to be careful. Some insisted the roads were safe. I told one bearded man I was trying to reach my home on the sea front and he gave me complicated instructions to walk past the Saudi Embassy and down some steps to the Mediterranean. But when we reached the road in front of the embassy, rocket-propelled grenades began exploding beyond the building and gunfire started snapping on the roadway. We turned back.

In Rue el Hussein, some heavy shells – perhaps from Lebanese Army tanks – were hitting the roofs of flats in clouds of black and grey smoke which drifted up into the gloom. It was not the noise which surprised you, but the sudden changes in air pressure created by each detonation.

By nightfall, there were only fires to be seen over roof-tops, tracers and spent missiles with small pink flames on the tails and the sound of shells passing overhead – all the paraphernalia of Beirut's political life ushering in the second round of Lebanon's third civil war.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales visits the National Hospital, Queen Square, WC1, 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, visits the University of Cambridge, arrives Downing Lodge, 6pm (until tomorrow).

Princess Anne attends a luncheon given by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City at the Central Criminal Court, Old Bailey, EC4, 12.40: and later attends a Reception for the Westminster Medical School Research Trust at the Speaker's House, Westminster, London, 7.15.

The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, dines with the Fellows of the Society at Boodle's, St James's Street, London, 7.40.

The Duchess of Kent visits the Lord Chancellor's Department, House of Lords, SW1, 10.30.

New exhibitions

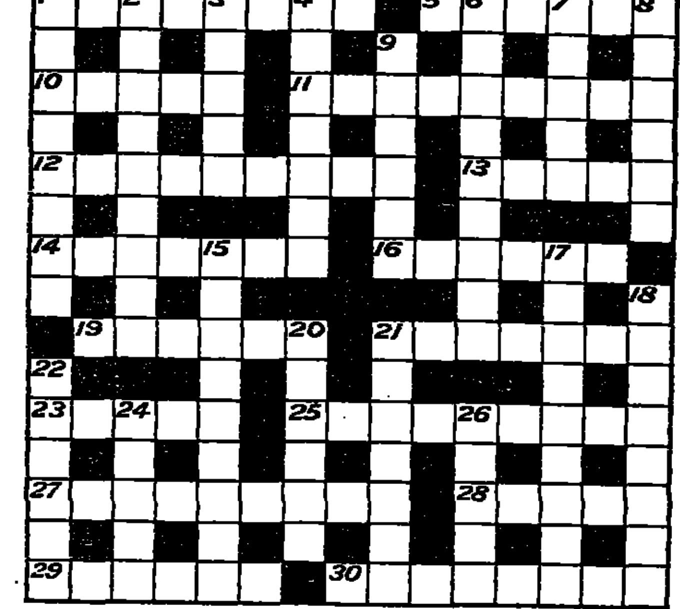
Gifts from Glasgow and Greenock: the best from the collections of University of Strathclyde, Glasgow and McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Greenock, Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Richmond Street, Glasgow: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 12 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 29).

Music

Viennese evening with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Concert by Hurstpierpoint College Senior School choir, Chichester Cathedral, 1.10.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,348



ACROSS

1 Personality has black-out arriving at this speed (8).
5 Sounds like Pict country of old (6).
10 Dissatisfaction at not having any interest (5).
11 Short-haul flight carrier (9).
12 Gustave follows the boy porter (9).
13 Supply bridge opponents with the fee (5).
14 Caught the sort of bone that gets knocked (7).
16 Old Penny Herries, windbag (6).
19 Joint holder is crooked to start with (6)
21 Put your foot down to get going (7).
23 Wild cry follows him round the crag (5).
25 Sorcery to make Ariel bide (9).
27 Assembly point for Johnnie (5,4).
28 Be mean to winter sports representative (5).
29 Shallow, like a forked —, said Falstaff (6).
30 The French notary, curiously, is Austrian (8).

DOWN

1 It protects woods from intruders (8).
2 Spear-carrying knave may be acting without pay (5-4).
3 Increase left out of the new serial (5).
4 Terminal stop in this lodgement (3-4).
6 Christmas rose that may restore balance (9).
7 Having had more than enough of broken dates (5).
8 Sharks making tenders (6).
9 Reams of paper – put it on the floor (6).
15 Out of control – having blown a fuse, perhaps (9).
17 Writers who do this get a type of stress (9).
18 Last quarter of the autobahn round Europe needs re-making at this stage (8).
20 Highly exciting poker (3-3).
21 This takes the service to the consumer (3-4).
22 Sensational start for a spoil-sport down under (6).
24 Somerset town blacked, we hear (5).
26 Rope in the "Dallas" solicitor (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Cooperative Development Agency and Industrial Development Bill, second reading.

Lords (2.30): Agricultural Holdings Bill, report. Pedal Bicycles (Safety) Regulations. Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, report.

Nature notes

Mistle thrushes are singing loudly and defending their large territories with vigour, chasing other mistle thrushes through the treetops. Many fieldfares and redwings were driven south by the blizzards, and invaded the London parks, but for the time being they have dispersed again.

Common gulls have been more numerous among the wintering flocks of black-headed gulls this year. The common gulls have long, lime-green legs, and white marks or "mirrors" on their black wing-tips; the black-headed gulls have short red legs on which they waddle like ducks, and pure black wing-tips. Gulls rarely perch among the branches of trees, but a line of black-headed gulls will sometimes sit on top of a tree like weeping ash, which has a thick bough at the crest, from which all the twigs and shoots descend.

Snowdrops are in flower; some osier trees already have silky white catkins along their light brown twigs; there are small yellow blossoms on the cornelian cherries. Hazel catkins are soft and lemony, but not quite ready to loose their pollen on the air. Foxes are mating, and their rank smell can be detected in the morning both at woodland edges and in suburban gardens.

DJM

Anniversaries

Births: Sir Thomas More, statesman and martyr, London, 1478; Charles Dickens, Portsmouth, 1812; Sir James Murray, first editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, Denholm, Roxburgh, 1837; Alfred Adler, psychiatrist, Penzing, Austria, 1870; Sinclair Lewis, novelist, Sauk Centre, Minnesota, 1885.

Deaths: William Boyce, London, 1779.

Walks

Tomorrow

Best of British Pubs Night, meet Bond Street (ticket office) Underground, 7.30. Streets paved with gold, London Stock Exchange and Guildhall, meet Bank Station (Royal Exchange exit), 2.

Thursday

Customs and Curios of the City, meet Monument Underground (Fish Street Hill entrance) 11. Barbican – Romans to Present Day, meet St Paul's Underground, 2. Lawyers' London – Inns of Court and Old Bailey, meet Temple Underground, 10.30. Pepys, Wren and the Great Fire of London, meet Tower Hill Underground, 2.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 29:

ITV

1 Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 17.05m
2 Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 16.90m
3 In Loving Memory, Yorkshire, 15.30m
4 This is Your Life, Thames, 14.65m
5 Name That Tune, Thames, 14.60m
6 A Fine Romance, LWT, 14.20m
7 Wish You Were Here, Thames, 13.45m
8 World in Action, Granada, 12.90m
9 3-2-1, Yorkshire, 12.75m
10 Crossroads (Thur), Central, 12.70m

BBC 1

1 The Living Planet, 11.60m
2 That's Life, 11.55m
3 The Les Dawson Show, 11.20m
4 Top of the Pops, 10.85m
5 Holiday, 10.65m
6 Dallas, 10.55m
7 Bergerac, 10.35m
8 No Place Like Home, 10.15m
9 New & Sport (Sat 21:25), 10.05m
10= News & Weather (Sun 21:05), 9.85m

BBC 2

1 Int. Snooker, 6.10
2 Int. Snooker, 5.65m
3 Int. Snooker, 5.60m
4 Int. Snooker, 5.55m
5 Smith's World of Flowers, 5.35m
6 Pure Hell at St Trinians, 5.10m
6= Int. Snooker, 5.10m
8 Int. Snooker, 4.75m
9 A Kick up the Eighties, 4.55m
10 Int. Snooker, 4.35m

Channel 4

1 Brookside (Wed), 3.50m
2 Brookside (Tue), 2.85m
3 Romantic Englishwoman, 2.65m
4 Treasure Hunt, 2.55m
5 Cheers, 2.25m
6 The Avengers, 2.00m
7 W, 1.85m
8 American Football – Rosebowl, 1.70m
9 Major and the Minor, 1.65m
9= Comic Strip Presents, 1.65m

In Welsh

S4C

1 Dechrau Canu/Canmol, BBC, 72,000
2 Pobol Y Cwm, BBC, 57,000
3 Rhagin Hywl Gwynfyn, BBC, 43,000
4 Gwraidd Y Galnc, HTV, 41,000
5 Helbys Fawr, IND, 39,000

In English

1 Buck Rogers, 144,000
2 Avengers, 111,000
3 Brookside (Thu), 104,000
4 Brookside (Wed), 92,000
5 St Elsewhere, 85,000

Breakfast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with figures in parenthesis showing the reach – the number of people who viewed for at least eight minutes): BBC1: Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 1.4m (5.2m). TV-am: Good Morning Britain: Mon-Fri 1.1m (5.0m); Sat 1.3m (3.5m).
Broadcasters' Audience Research Board.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.62	1.54
Austria Sch	28.85	27.25
Belgium Fr	84.75	80.75
Canada $	1.84	1.77
Denmark Kr	14.77	14.07
Finland Mkk	8.67	8.27
France Fr	12.38	11.88
Germany DM	4.05	3.87
Greece Dr	160.00	150.00
Hongkong $	11.40	10.80
Ireland Pt	1.32	1.26
Italy Lira	2475.00	2375.00
Japan Yen	348.00	332.00
Netherlands Gld	4.59	4.36
Norway Kr	11.60	11.00
Portugal Esc	199.00	189.00
South Africa Rd	1.94	1.80
Spain Pta	230.50	221.50
Sweden Kr	12.02	11.42
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA $	1.47	1.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	210.00	200.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 342.80.

London: The *FT* Index closed down 16.9 at 815.5.

Roads

London and South-east: A203: Carriageway reduced in width in South Lambeth Road between Lansdown Way and Clapham Road. A316: Lane restrictions in Twickenham Road, Richmond (west of Kew Road roundabout). A103: Seven Sisters Road reduced by one lane at junction with A503; restrictions turning left into Hornsey Road.

Wales and West: A38: Lane closures at Marsh Mills on A38 between Plymouth and Ivy Bridge. A40: Temporary traffic signals and delays on Bancyfelin – St Clears Road, surfacing; delays. M5: Lane closures between junction 25 and 27 southbound carriageway.

Midlands: A34: Roadworks south of Shipston on Stour at Tidmington, Warwickshire. Delays. A45: Lane closures east and westbound on Bury St Edmunds by-pass. A45: Lane closures on Cambridge by-pass.

North: A53: Traffic lights on Leek Road, Buxton. A1: Contraflow on Gatherley to Scotch Corner road, North Yorkshire. A627(M): Right-hand lane closures on full circumference above M62, 9.30am-3.30pm daily.

Scotland: A803: Lane closures and delays along Springburn Road, nr Hawthorn Street, Glasgow. A7: Single lane traffic with temporary lights south of Selkirk, Selkirkshire. A82: Single lane traffic controlled by lights south of Drumnadrochit, Invernesshire. Care required.

The AA last night warned all road users to proceed with utmost caution as gale force winds battered the whole country. A spokesman described cross winds on the motorways as "tremendously powerful". Severn Bridge was closed to commercial vehicles and motorists were encouraged to use alternative routes. Further snow falls have left a dozen main routes blocked in Scotland.

Information supplied by AA

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the February £10,000 draw for Premium Bond prizes are: 3AL 123804 (the winner lives in Surrey); 13KP 231464 (Berkshire); 5MS 537141 (Kent); 21VS 071854 (Perthshire); 12WK 154654 (Dorset).

The papers

The Daily Mirror takes Sir Geoffrey Howe up on his expressed hope that he will stay Foreign Secretary long enough to make the same impact on the Government's record as he did when he was Chancellor. "That was the worst news since Richard Nixon announced he was running for President", it says. It claims that as Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey was "a daily disaster" and points out that in his first budget he doubled VAT and so forced up the cost of living and the wage claims to meet it; claiming also that he did more than any other minister to add two million workers to the dole queues and began the process of turning the welfare state into a salami sausage, taking another slice off every time he needed more money to correct his mistakes. "During the Cheltenham fiasco he has skated with the surefootedness of a three-legged rhino with gout."

Weather forecast

A complex depression to N of Scotland, will move slowly eastwards, and a trough of low pressure will move into western areas later.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, E Midlands: Sunny intervals, becoming cloudy later, perhaps rain; wind W fresh or strong, gale in places; max temp 6C (43F).

East Anglia, E England: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind W fresh or strong, gale in places; max temp 4C (39F).

Central, W Midlands: Sunny intervals, isolated showers, becoming cloudy, outbreaks of rain later; wind W fresh or strong, gale in exposed places; max temp 6C (43F).

Channel Islands, SW England: Mostly cloudy, outbreaks of rain becoming more persistent later; wind NW strong, gale in places; max temp 8C (46F).

S, N Wales, NW, central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, showers, wintry on hills, rain heavy in places later; wind NW strong to gale; max temp 5C (41F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: Rather cloudy, snow showers, some sunny intervals; wind NW strong to gale severe gale in places; max temp 3C (37F).

Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, snow showers, some sunny intevals; wind NW strong to gale; max temp 1-3C (34-37F) frost in places.

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Showers or longer outbreaks of rain, some snow in N; sunny intervals; windy at times; temperatures normal in S, rather cold in N with overnight frost.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind NW gale or severe gale; sea very rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW strong or gale locally severe gale at first. St George's Channel: Wind NW gale locally severe gale at first backing W strong to gale later; sea very rough. Irish Sea: Wind NW gale or severe gale backing W strong to gale later; sea very rough.

Sun rises: 7.31 am	Sun sets: 5.00 pm
Moon rises: 9.49 am	Moon sets: 10.51 pm

First Quarter February 10.

Lighting-up time

London 5.30 pm to 6.59 am
Bristol 5.39 pm to 7.08 am
Edinburgh 5.27 pm to 7.25 am
Manchester 5.32 pm to 7.13 am
Penzance 5.55 pm to 7.17 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	r	5	41	Guernsey	c	10	50
Birmingham	r	8	46	Inverness	sn	0	32
Blackpool	c	7	45	Jersey	r	9	48
Bristol	r	9	47	London	r	11	52
Cardiff	r	8	46	Manchester	c	8	46
Edinburgh	c	4	39	Newcastle	r	5	41
Glasgow	r	4	39	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

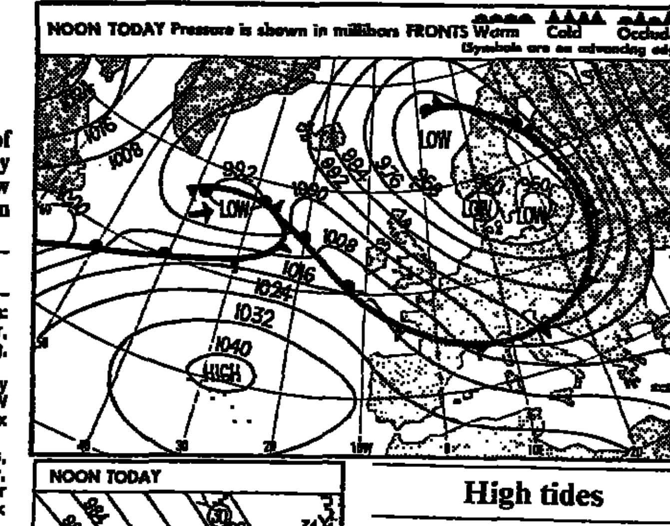
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Kinloss, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Aviemore, 0.883 in; highest sunshine: Scarborough, 2.6 hr.

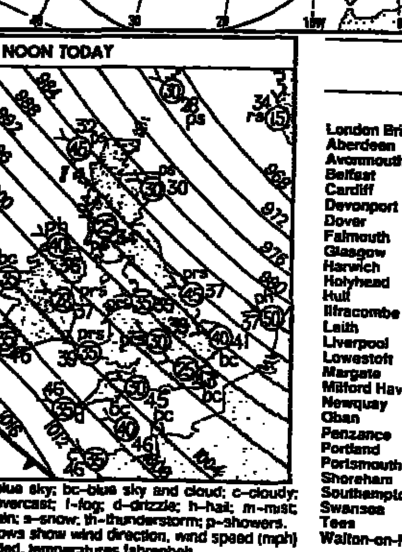
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6 pm, 73 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.04in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 998.7 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)



NOON TODAY



b–blue sky; bc–blue sky and cloud; c–cloudy; o–overcast; f–fog; d–drizzle; h–hail; m–mist; r–rain; s–snow; th–thunderstorm; p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit.

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.48	6.7	5.18	6.6
Aberdeen	4.30	3.8	4.21	4.0
Avonmouth	10.12	12.1	10.24	11.7
Belfast	2.11	3.0	2.20	3.3
Cardiff	9.57	11.2	11.09	10.8
Devonport	8.28	5.1	8.45	4.9
Dover	1.51	6.3	2.06	5.9
Falmouth	7.58	4.9	8.15	4.7
Glasgow	3.58	4.4	4.08	4.8
Harwich	2.39	3.6	3.08	3.5
Holyhead	1.14	4.9	1.27	5.2
Hull	9.27	6.7	9.34	7.0
Ilfracombe	8.58	8.3	9.11	8.0
Leith	5.47	4.8	5.55	5.0
Liverpool	2.04	8.4	2.20	8.5
Lowestoft			12.53	2.1
Margate	2.50	4.5	3.18	4.3
Milford Haven	9.19	6.4	9.32	6.1
Newquay	8.12	6.4	8.26	6.1
Oban	8.45	3.6	8.46	3.4
Penzance	7.33	5.2	7.51	4.9
Portland	9.36	1.8	10.00	1.7
Portsmouth	2.28	4.3	2.33	4.1
Shoreham	1.58	5.7	2.11	5.5
Southampton	1.49	4.2	1.54	4.1
Swansea	9.22	8.6	9.32	8.3
Tees	6.52	4.7	6.53	5.1
Walton-on-Naze	2.34	3.9	3.01	3.8

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	2.6	.17	7	45	Showers
Bridlington	0.2	.13	7	45	Showers
Cromer	–	.17	8	46	Shwers pm
Lowestoft	–	.33	9	48	Showers
Clacton	–	.03	10	50	Showers
Margate	–	–	11	52	Cloudy
Folkestone	–	.08	11	52	Rain
Hastings	–	.13	10	50	Rain
Eastbourne	–	.07	10	50	Rain pm
Brighton	–	.14	8	46	Rain
Worthing	–	.07	10	50	Rain
Littlehmptn	–	.04	11	52	Rain pm
Bognor R	–	.05	11	52	Rain pm
Southsea	–	.08	10	50	Cloudy
Shanklin	–	.16	10	50	Rain
Bournemth	–	.20	11	52	Rain
Poole	–	.19	11	52	Rain
Swanage	–	.23	10	50	Rain
Weymouth	–	.32	11	52	Rain
Exmouth	–	.28	11	52	Gale
Torquay	–	.42	12	54	Rain am
Falmouth	–	.15	11	52	Gale
Penzance	–	.05	11	52	Gales
Jersey	–	.18	11	52	Drizzle
Newquay	–	.07	11	52	Cloudy
Tenby	–	.16	11	52	Cloudy
Southport	–	.38	7	45	Cloudy
Morecambe	–	.41	9	48	Rain pm
Douglas	–	.49	7	45	Shwrs pm
London (Ctrl)	–	.04	11	52	Rain pm
B'ham (Airpt)	–	.48	9	48	Rain
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	.17	10	50	Rain
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	.35	9	48	Rain pm
Anglesey	–	.09	9	48	Rain pm
B'pool (Airpt)	–	.41	7	45	Rain pm
Manchester	–	.74	8	46	Rain pm
Nottingham	–	.64	8	46	Rain
N'ctl-n-Tyne	1.4	.22	6	43	Showers
Carlisle	0.3	.41	6	43	Showers
Eskdalemuir	0.1	.75	3	37	Snow
Prestwick	0.7	.51	6	43	Showers
Glasgow	1.2	.53	4	39	Showers
Tiree	1.2	.31	5	41	Snow pm
Stornoway	0.9	.24	2	36	Snow
Lerwick	0.2	.31	1	34	Snow
Wick	0.7	.08	0	32	Snow
Edinburgh	1.1	.17	5	41	Snow pm
Aldergrove	–	.33	6	43	Showers

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F
Ajaccio	s	14	57
Akrotiri	c	18	64
Alexandria	th	19	66
Algiers	c	15	59
Amsterdam	f	7	45
Athens	f	13	55
Bahrain			
Barbados*	f	28	82
Barcelona	s	14	57
Beirut		nil	
Belgrade	f	7	45
Berlin	r	3	37
Bermuda*	f	23	73
Biarritz	f	10	50
Boulogne	c	9	48
Bordeaux	c	12	54
Brussels	r	9	48
Budapest	c	3	37
Buen Aires*	f	22	72
Cairo			
Cape Tn			
C'blanca	f	15	59
Chicago*	sn	-6	21
Cologne	r	6	43
Copenhgn	sl	2	36
Corfu	f	16	61
Dallas*	s	13	55
Dublin	r	7	45
Dubrovnik	f	13	55
Faro	s	14	57
Florence	s	12	54
Frankfurt	r	5	41
Funchal	r	14	57
Geneva	c	2	36
Gibraltar	c	15	59
Helsinki	sn	0	32
Hongkong			
Innsbruck	f	3	37
Istanbul	c	8	46
Jiddah			
Jo'burg			
Karachi			
Las Palmas	s	20	68
Lisbon	s	13	55
Locarno	f	9	48
L Angeles*	s	13	55
Luxembg	dr	5	41
Madrid	s	10	50
Majorca	c	15	59
Malaga	c	16	61
Malta	c	15	59
Melbourne			
Mexico C*	s	17	63
Miami*	s	20	68
Milan	s	8	46
Montreal*	c	1	34
Moscow	s	-8	18
Munich	f	6	43
Nairobi			
Naples	c	11	52
New Delhi			
New York*	r	3	37
Nice	s	14	57
Oslo	c	1	34
Ottawa			
Paris	dr	9	48
Peking			
Perth			
Prague	c	3	37
Reykjavik	f	-4	25
Rhodes	c	18	64
Ryadh			
Rio de Jan*	s	32	90
Rome	s	14	57
Salzburg	s	6	43
Sao Paulo*	f	33	91
S Francisco*	s	13	55
Santiago*	s	27	81
Seoul			
Singapore			
Stockholm	c	2	36
Strasbourg	r	6	43
Sydney			
Tangier	f	16	61
Tel Aviv	f	27	81
Tenerife	c	18	64
Tokyo			
Toronto*	c	0	32
Tunis	c	16	61
Valencia	s	4	39
Vancouver*	s	2	36
Venice	s	5	41
Vienna	s	7	45
Warsaw	f	3	37
Washington*	f	4	39
Zurich	f	2	36

* denotes Sunday's figures are latest available